

Hafa Adai!

Skymark only one that availed of CPA incentive program. **PAGE 2**

Man, 29, gets 77 days in prison for child abuse. **Page 5**

75¢

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TINIAN EXERCISE

U.S. Air Force personnel set up a surveillance camera during the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief component of Exercise Cope North 20 on the island of Tinian. Exercise COPE North 20 is a Pacific Air Forces-sponsored multilateral field training exercise. CN20 involves more than 2,000 personnel and approximately 100 aircraft and aims to increase the combat readiness and interoperability of the U.S. Air Force, Royal Australian Air Force and Japan Air Self-Defense Force.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE/CPL DAVID SAID



Torres declares price freeze

A price freeze has been declared throughout the CNMI in a move meant to protect CNMI residents during the COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak, which has weak-

ened the economy.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed Executive Order 2020-03 yesterday, declaring the price freeze.

"Protecting the health and
See TORRES on Page 4

PRICE FREEZE

The prices of the following items are frozen:

1. Gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, natural gas, and all other chemical fuels, whether in gaseous, liquid, or solid form;
2. All foods and foodstuffs, including water, bottled water, beverages, and ice;
3. All clothing;
4. Flashlights, lamps, lanterns, candles, light bulbs, and other means of illumination;
5. Generators, cables, wires,

See PRICE on Page 4

CHCC sends second specimen for testing

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Health Care Corp has submitted a second specimen to a laboratory in Hawaii for COVID-19 testing.

According to a CHCC statement yesterday, the patient is considered low priority as he/she does not

meet the full U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention case definition of a COVID-19 person under investigation. CHCC is currently taking a precautionary stance in order to protect the CNMI community.

The statement also clarifies that this does not mean that the CNMI has a con-

See CHCC on Page 4

Kilili noncommittal about run for seventh term

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) declined to give a point-blank "yes" or "no" response Wednesday when asked if he is going to run again for the delegate

post in November, but his vague response may contain the seeds of a hint when he said in an email response to *Saipan Tribune's* question that incumbents "are presumed to be seeking reelection."

The 65-year-old Sablan stated,

See KILILI on Page 4



Sablan

INSIDE



SUPPLEMENT

Today's *Saipan Tribune* includes a pullout supplement on our Women of Excellence series.

PAGE 11



WORLD

Anti-coronavirus measures are transforming the way people work, shop, pray and amuse themselves.

PAGE 21



LIFE & STYLE

The release of the James Bond film "No Time To Die" has been pushed back for months.

PAGE 23



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All persons interested to become delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee Wisconsin on July 13-16 2020 pledged to any of the Presidential Candidates should visit www.nmidems.org to receive a delegate candidacy form and submit their candidacy on or before March 8, 2020

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Local

Skymark only one that availed of CPA incentive program

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

As of yesterday, only Skymark Airlines Inc. has availed of the Commonwealth Ports Authority's air carrier incentive program, according to Airport Facilities Committee chair Barrie C. Toves.

He said that when he first started pushing for the creation of this air carrier incentive program, his objective was to enhance air service to and from Rota because that is the most underserved route especially for inter-island flights.

Toves said that CPA accepted Skymark's application and approved it and that Skymark is currently on its first year of participation in the program.

The five-year program allows new airlines to avail of a 75% discount on airport tariffs during the first year of operation and 50% discount during the second year. The program, adopted by the CPA board in September 2018, aims to promote competition, attract new airlines, and increase scheduled direct passenger service to unserved and under-served destinations.

» **Toves says Star Marianas Air was informed about the program since February last year**

Toves said they anticipate a new airline—AH Boutique Air—would be applying for the program as soon as they're ready to begin their operation.

Toves also assured that all airlines operators, including Star Marianas Air, were informed about the incentive program.

Toves said that, soon after creating the program, they instructed CPA management to inform all airline operators about it and give them attachments, the application and the narrative of the program itself. He gave this clarification in response to Star Marianas Air president Shaun R. Christian's recent statement about not being informed about the incentive program.

Christian said the CNMI remains one of the only jurisdictions within the United States that imposes tariffs on aircraft parts through the assessment of beautification taxes.

Christian also stated that CPA has not made them aware of any incentive programs available to the company and continues to charge the maximum passenger facility charges allowable.

But Toves showed *Saipan Tribune* last week the CPA management's email message dated Feb. 19, 2019, which was sent to all international and local flights about the incentive program. Toves said Star Marianas Air was one of those on the list of airlines and that CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio sent the attachment memorandum

to Christian.

He said the subject of that memo informed all airlines that CPA has established an air carrier incentive program for the Saipan, Tinian, and Rota airports.

Toves said that only one air carrier was operating on Rota at that time. "So that's the reason why we adopted the program," Toves said.

When asked for more information about the program, Toves said yesterday that he was expecting Star Marianas to be interested since they're the sole airline operating and servicing Rota.

Mafnas: Customs is not in the business of closing businesses

By **IVA MAURIN**
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REPORTER

The 30-day grace period for importers to pay excise tax on goods is a major gap in the revenue collections of the Division of Customs and eliminating that grace period is seen as a plus for the division, according to Customs director Jose C. Mafnas.

Speaking before the Saipan

Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday, March 4, Mafnas disclosed that there are importers who avail of the 30-day grace period and then disappear, which cramps Customs' revenue collection.

To combat this gap, the House of Representatives passed a bill last Feb. 12 that would eliminate the grace period for importers to pay excise tax.

Mafnas revealed that there are 139 importers who fall under the 30-day period, with taxes due from them amounting to \$378,000; 60 days, 42 importers with tax due of \$4,929; 90 days, 31 importers with tax due of \$21,000; and 120 days, 812 importers, with taxes worth \$611,000.

With about 157 importers, with \$159,000 tax due needed to be removed from the sys-

tem because of the statute of limitation, the total outstanding value that Customs need to go and collect is about \$1,015,000.

"That is a lot of money, and I am mandated by law to collect every penny from these people. We are using all kinds of manpower resources to go after these people. Believe it or not, a lot of these people, they change their address,

they change their business, they disappear from whatever location that they said they are getting started," Mafnas said.

The Customs director also stressed that they are not out to close businesses, and that the objective for repealing the 30-day grace period is to close the gap that is being exploited by dishonest importers, and to have a system in place for those who are compliant with Customs import laws.

"Customs is not in the busi-

ness of closing a business. When an importer has a hard time paying their tax dues, we have a mechanism in place to work with them," he said.

Even without a grace period, or even with the 30-day grace period, Customs can work with an importer to release their cargo, following a payment plan, Mafnas said. "Regulations say you must not release. You must pay. We will release their cargo pending the

See **MAFNAS** on Page 4

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Manglona hears mechanic's lien application vs IPI

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona heard yesterday whether there is probable cause in an application for a mechanic's lien filed by a former contractor of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC in IPI's hotel-casino in Garapan.

A mechanic's lien refers to a security interest in the title to property for the benefit of those who have supplied labor or materials that improve the property.

Yesterday's hearing will be continued on March 20 at 3:30pm, in response to IPI's request to continue the hearing. IPI was represented yesterday by Joseph Horey.

The plaintiff in the case, U.S.A. Fanter Corp., presented two witnesses: general consultant Antonio Muña and company owner Guo Cao Qian.

According to the minutes of the hearing, Horey argued IPI's objection to the application for a mechanic's lien. U.S.A. Fanter counsel Colin M. Thompson argued for U.S.A. Fanter.

U.S.A. Fanter is suing IPI for breach of construction contract and unjust enrichment allegedly refusing to pay \$2,089,345 over landscaping improvements for IPI's hotel-casino project.

U.S.A. Fanter asked the court to hold IPI liable to pay \$2.08 million in contract damages. The company also sought payment for interest and attorney's fees.

The plaintiff asked the court to attach a mechanic's lien to IPI's interests in the real property on the project.

IPI, through counsel, asked the court to dismiss the complaint or, in the alternative, suspend the proceedings pending mediation.

IPI argued that U.S.A. Fanter has not complied with the mandatory mediation clause. IPI said it is undisputed that the parties have not mediated the plaintiff's claims and IPI never informed the company that it would refuse to a mediation.

U.S.A. Fanter and IPI executed a contract for construction on the project on June 18, 2019.

Thompson said the contractor repeatedly demanded that IPI pay all amounts due and owing for work performed, but IPI failed to pay.

Thompson said that last Dec. 29, U.S.A. Fanter demanded to mediate their claims, but IPI refused.

Pacific Rim Land Development LLC also filed an application for a mechanic's lien on IPI's hotel-casino project and

on the land that it sits on.

Pacific Rim, through Thompson, is suing IPI and five unnamed alleged co-conspirators for breach of contract. Thompson said the unpaid amount that is owed Pacific Rim is \$5.65 million but it wants to collect from IPI approximately \$10 million in damages that would be proven at trial.

The court then consolidated Pacific Rim's lawsuit and its application for a mechanic's lien. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

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Dems set SWR, NMC Tinian, Rota as caucus sites

On Saturday, March 14, 2020, the NMI Democratic Party will host its 2nd Presidential Caucus on the islands Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

NMI registered voters who would like to participate and register as members of the party are welcome and encouraged to attend. Registered voters and persons who will be eligible to vote on or before Nov 3, 2020, on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota will be able to visit the designated caucus

voting sites and cast votes for their Democratic presidential candidate of choice. As of March 5, the following three presidential candidates will be listed on the NMI Presidential Caucus ballot: Former vice president Joe Biden, Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont, and Sen. Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts.

Candidates Deval Patrick, Andrew Yang, Tom Steyer, Pete Buttigieg, Amy Klobuchar, and Mike Bloom-

berg qualified for the ballot by petition, but each have since suspended their campaign and will no longer be on the ballot.

The caucus will be held on Saipan at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom, with simultaneous sub-caucuses at the following locations: Northern Marianas College Rota Center Room B2-VTC Room, Northern Marianas College Tinian Center Room C-VTC Room. Doors will open at 5pm, with the doors closing for the caucuses to begin promptly at 6pm.

'The CNMI should brace for the worst'

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

An economic consultant who was invited to explain the CNMI's current economic crisis to the CNMI Board of Education at its meeting last Wednesday had dire words for the board: "Now is the time that we've got to brace for, for what could be terrible circumstances that are going to be painful."

Matthew Deleon Guerrero, Hive Analytics president and chief economist, the board will need to start considering "what is the appropriate policy going forward that is able to protect the entirety of the system."

Deleon Guerrero, who was invited by the Public School System

to enlighten board members and PSS teachers present during last Wednesday's board meeting about the terrible circumstance the CNMI is currently facing, thinks it is important that all policymakers begin to realize that the current situation is turning into an unprecedented scenario—one that the CNMI has never seen before.

"Previous disasters and all previous recessions, previous moments of economic turbulence, there were different pieces that [we were] able to mitigate some of the effects that don't exist today," he said.

"There needs to be a full picture about the total economic circumstances... a more total viewpoint based on a severely contracting market," he added.

He warned of dire effects not just

on tax revenues but also on consumer debt and the ability to afford essential services like public safety, the hospital and Medicaid payments.

Deleon Guerrero, who spoke at the meeting to explain the importance of implementing austerity measures in PSS now rather than later, said that everyone needs to make difficult decisions now, no agency is exempted, because the economy is not generating the revenue that it needs.

"The economy is built on tourism. The historic tourist numbers have originated from China and Korea, and we're losing significant, if not all, the numbers. ... If you look at the numbers for Korean flights coming in, there's cancellations upon cancellations and you can only base future projections on what the current information is. We don't know when the threat and con-

improvement," he said.

This week, Sablan said, was dedicated to the annual veteran service organizations visits to hear their concerns and suggestions about services for the nation's veterans.

While the Veterans of Foreign Wars is the only VSO the NMI has, he said there is always so much that VSOs provide to inform the Veterans Affairs Committee on what needs doing to help the heroes and warriors that served the nation in the uniformed services.

On H.R. 560 or the Northern Marianas Islands Residents Relief Act, Sablan said they need to get some traction in the U.S. Senate if they are going to move the legislation forward.

"Since the Trump administration has not expressed support for the bill, this won't be easy but we have to give it our best effort," he added.

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 560, which proposes to provide permanent resident status to long-term foreign workers or CW workers, as well as investors, in the CNMI. Sablan introduced the bill.

PRICE

From Page 1

electrical batteries of every sort, and similar equipment for the generation and/or transmission of electrical power;

6. All appliances used in the storage and/or preparation of food, including, but not limited to, stoves, barbecue grilles, ovens, refrigerators, and coolers;

7. Tools typically used for construction, ground clearing, or home repairs, whether electrically powered, chemically powered, or manual, including, but not limited to, saws, machetes, hammers, drills, shovels, rakes, and brooms.

8. All bedding items, including pillows, futons and blankets. (PR)

The results from Super Tuesday narrowed a candidate race of four to three with Elizabeth Warren now reviewing her options on whether she'll continue her campaign.

"I've been with Elizabeth Warren from the very beginning and I hope she stays in the race. We're both lawyers, both born and raised in Oklahoma, she's smart and has strong policies but, best of all, we're both Democrats," said NMI Democrat Joe Hill.

Will she stay in the race? Only time will tell so until that time arrives

cern about coronavirus is going to dissipate and when it does, that takes some ramping up time and so we're really at odds with what is funding government services," he said.

Deleon Guerrero said that there's a lot of ideas being discussed in both private and public sectors, but the priority is to ensure the members of the community are safe and healthy.

TORRES

From Page 1

safety of our residents includes protecting their ability to provide for their families during this unanticipated economic downturn as a result of the coronavirus," said Torres.

He noted in his order that the CNMI is experiencing an "unprecedented economic circumstances" that affect everyone.

"...It is our obligation to protect the spending power of our residents so we can feed our families and make ends meet during these difficult times ahead. Now more than ever is the time to come together as one Commonwealth and look out for each other," Torres added.

In addition to this price freeze, Torres wrote letters to all CNMI banks last week to ask them to consider

CHCC

From Page 1

firmed case, and CHCC will provide more information and updates on the situation as soon as it is available.

According to CHCC spokesperson Zoe Travis, the CNMI still remains coronavirus-free, but the islands are still at a high risk for experiencing an outbreak.

The first time CHCC submitted a specimen for testing to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention laboratory in Atlanta, Georgia was last Feb. 11 and the patient was also a low interest patient, meaning that the patient didn't meet the full CDC criteria of a person who has the virus. Last Feb. 21, CHCC received

don't forget to register to become her pledged delegate via www.nmi-dems.org.

All persons interested to become delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee Wisconsin, pledged to any of the presidential candidates—Joe Biden, Bernie Sanders, or Elizabeth Warren—should visit www.nmidems.org to receive a delegate candidacy form and submit their candidacy on or before this Sunday, March 8, 2020. (PR)

"The first step in figuring out a way to ensure that people are safe and people are healthy and lives are [not] impacted as much as they could. That's just what a lot of people are trying to do, the Chamber of Commerce, [Department of] Finance. There's a lot of people working on this and it's generating some really good discussions," he said.

providing a three-month grace period for all loans, mortgages, promissory notes, and other monetary obligations owed from residents on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios added that businesses should not take advantage of residents during these challenging times.

"We value our businesses as strong partners, but we are in the midst of an economic crisis that requires all of us to look out for each other. As a government and as leaders, we will do our part to protect everyone during these difficult times. Businesses should not look to exploit residents during this crisis," he said.

The last time the CNMI government ordered a price freeze was in the wake of Super Typhoon Yutu in October 2018. It was only lifted a year later, October 2019. (Saipan Tribune)

confirmation from the CDC that the sample was negative.

Until then, CHCC reminds everyone that the best way to protect oneself and others from the virus and other illnesses is to practice good basic health and hygiene such as:

■ Washing your hands for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer

■ Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands

■ Avoiding close contact with people who are sick, stay home when you are sick

■ Covering your cough/sneeze with a tissue and properly disposing of it,

■ Cleaning and disinfecting touched objects and surfaces frequently.

toms to focus more on better protecting the CNMI borders.

The bill, according to the Customs director, will also increase revenue by eliminating the grace period, and "have those high-risk importers pay on the spot" with "no chance for them to hide."

With challenges brought by drug smuggling, undervaluation of goods, and undecoration of high tax rate commodities and contrabands, Customs believe that the bill will lessen the challenges and bring fairness to honest importers.

KILILI

From Page 1

though, that he is focused on work at the moment that he has not had the chance to discuss campaign plans with the Kilili for Congress Committee, his family, and supporters.

"I, of course, hope to do so soon," he said.

The CNMI will have a mid-term election this November, during which the delegate post is one of the many posts that will be up for grabs. Right now, Sablan is on his sixth term as the CNMI's delegate in the U.S. Congress.

The delegate said they have filed his initial paperwork with the Federal Election Commission, as required by law.

"Yet, even when we reach and announce our reelection decision, we will continue to place a higher priority on work," he said.

Sablan said the campaign and the election, after all, are still months away and that they hope to get as much as work as possible done in the meantime. He said this is how they have conducted their campaigns in prior reelection efforts.

"We don't see any reason to change the greater priority we place on work than we will in my campaign at this particular time in an election year," he said.

Sablan handily defeated then-representative Angel Demapan of the Republican Party at the November 2018 elections.

The delegate said he remains focused on ensuring that the Northern Marianas and other insular areas have access to a longer Medicaid funding after the two-year bridge—"a program that will allow us to install electronic medical and other records with providers and with federal agencies. And a fraud unit office,"

said Sablan, adding that these two are essential to the CNMI eventually getting into the full program available to the 50 states and Washington, D.C.

He said the CNMI's failure to put together these two units before late fiscal year 2021 could mean a gradual decrease in the \$120 million in Medicaid funds that Congress passed recently.

The delegate said they expect to hold an oversight hearing on how effective the federal government's response was after natural disasters in the Pacific insular areas.

He said they hope to be able to get the U.S. Government's Accountability Office's perspective and review of the response so that the CNMI is better prepared for future disasters.

On the coronavirus outbreak, Sablan said the nation and the world are faced with the deadly virus that is estimated to have a vaccine developed in 12 to 18 months at best.

He underscored the importance for the NMI to be included in any public health supplemental appropriation meant to fight this disease and be prepared for when the virus crosses the Marianas shores.

In the meantime, Sablan urged people to watch the informational video produced for public broadcast by the House Office of Attending Physician.

On the budget, the delegate said hearings are in progress and that he has been asked to chair the fiscal year 2021 Department of the Interior budget oversight hearing this week.

As chairman of the Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education Committee Subcommittee, Sablan will start holding oversight hearings to determine how well the law governing K-12 education programs are working.

"We expect to also look at issues in the law that may need revisiting for

Man, 29, gets 77 days in prison for child abuse

A 29-year-old man accused of molesting a 6-year-old girl has pleaded guilty and was slapped with a 77-day prison term.

Peter Owen Torwal Aldan pleaded guilty Wednesday to child abuse as part of a plea deal.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho sentenced him to five years imprisonment, all suspended except for 77 days, with credit for 77 days of time-served. This means he will no longer serve more time in prison.

Aldan was required to perform 100 hours of community service, pay \$25 in court costs, and \$120 in fees.

He was ordered, among other conditions, to report to the Community Guidance Center and complete any recom-

mended treatment.

The Office of the Attorney General originally charged Aldan with sexual assault of a minor in the second degree for

allegedly touching the girl inappropriately in a bedroom of a house on Saipan on Jan. 4, 2019. Police arrested Aldan that same day. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

Rogopes assaults fellow inmate

A total of 10 more months was added to the 30-year prison sentence of a man who was originally sent to prison for killing his wife.

This time, Sylvestre Rogopes Sablan was convicted of assaulting and wounding a fellow inmate, resulting in the additional sentence.

Rogopes, 47, appeared before the Superior Court at the Marianas Business Plaza last Jan. 27 to face charges of beating Godfrey Sablan Mendiola last Sept. 10, 2019. The case was prosecuted by

assistant attorney general Chester Hinds.

Rogopes was originally convicted of murdering his wife in April 2015 at their house in Oleai. He was reportedly high on methamphetamine or "ice" at the time when he brutally murdered his wife, Ana Pialur Limes.

The victim in the assault, Mendiola, is in prison for sexually abusing a 16-year-old girl on Tinian in 2017. He is now serving an eight-year prison sentence. *(Krizel Tuazon)*



JOE BIDEN



BERNIE SANDERS



ELIZABETH WARREN

Democrats in the Northern Marianas will caucus on March 14, 2020 to select delegates to the 2020 Democratic National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, July 13-16, 2020, which will nominate the Democratic Party candidates for President and Vice President of the United States of America

NMI registered voters who would like to participate and register as members of the party are welcome and encouraged to attend

Registered voters and persons who will be eligible to vote on or before Nov 3, 2020 on Saipan, Tinian, & Rota will be able to visit the designated caucus voting sites and cast votes for their Democratic Presidential Candidate of choice

The caucus will be held on Saipan at the World Resort's Royal Taga Ballroom, with simultaneous sub-caucuses at

**Northern Marianas College
Rota Center Room B2
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**Northern Marianas College
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VTC Room**

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Korean community donates \$2K to bury unclaimed body

By JUSTINE NAUTA
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Korean community on Saipan paid for the expenses incurred in the burial of a 49-year-old male who passed away last Feb. 8.

According to Won Suk

Bang, Korean consular assistant, the Korean community helped pitch in with donations and that's how they were able to donate \$2,000 to the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. to pay for burial expenses.

Hun Young Park, a 49-year-old male, had a stroke one

week prior to his death. According to Bang, Park had been admitted to the intensive care of the Commonwealth Health Center and progressively worsened. Park's body remained unclaimed because he had no family on the island and had no known history of

an employer. According to Bang, Park had issues with renewing his CNMI-Only Transitional Worker visa, which led him to stay on Saipan for the last six years of his life.

Bang mentioned that the Korean government also reached out to Park's family but they

were overseas and weren't available to come for the burial.

"We want to extend our appreciation to CHC for being really helpful with everything for someone who doesn't have a family on the island," said Bang.

Last Feb 18, the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter,

along with the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Veteran Affairs Office, had a special burial known as the "Final Salute" for an unclaimed veteran, Robert McCausland, whose body had been languishing at the CHC morgue for 18 months.

NMC to host student talent showcase

There are still spots left for Northern Marianas College students who want to exhibit their talents at the NMC Student Showcase at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on April 17.

According to Alexis Cabrera, Student Leadership coordinator of NMC, they intend to showcase student art (painting, sketches, crafts, sculptures, eco-art, cultural, etc.), photography, dance, spoken word poetry, musical performances, stand-up comedy, short films and/or digital media, and more.

Cabrera noted that this will be the first time since her appointment as student leadership coordinator that NMC will be hosting a student showcase.

So far, only three students have signed up and, since it is a four-hour event, there is no limit to how many spots will be made available.

Cabrera encourages all students to join and showcase their talents and, because she knows there are many shy students who don't want to put their names out there, Cabrera

will accept anyone who wants to remain anonymous.

After a trip to an NMC art class that were on display at the back of the temporary classroom, Cabrera was inspired to introduce a student-only talent showcase. She recalls being blown away by the stunning art that was made out of natural resources that sat at the back of the tent classes. Unfortunately, none of art could be salvaged since they were attracting insects that could potentially damage the classroom. *(Justin Nauta)*

MCS takes precautionary measures vs coronavirus

As Mount Carmel School continues to monitor the protective measures the CNMI, United States, and Pacific allies have taken to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, COVID-19, the school has implemented several preventative measures to protect its students and community.

Students, faculty, and staff members have been urged to practice frequent sanitation practices encouraged by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. These include avoiding close contact with people who are sick; touching your eyes, nose, and mouth; staying home if you are feeling ill; covering your cough or sneeze

with a tissue; and washing your hands frequently throughout the day for at least 20 seconds.

Mount Carmel School has also implemented temporary policy measures for new students enrolling in the middle of the 2020 school year. The school's short-term auditing program will be temporarily suspended until further notice. Parents enrolling their child full-time from outside the Marianas will need to provide official documentation from their country of origin stating that they tested negative for COVID-19 infection. Families unable to provide a medical record will be asked to stay home for at least two weeks and will be required to provide a health

record from the Commonwealth Health Center or a private clinic. Likewise, employees that travel in from outside the Marianas will be asked to refrain from visiting the school for two weeks. While affected students and employees are away from school, they will be accorded opportunities to complete work online. These measures will continue to be implemented until further notice.

Updates from the school will be shared on all of Mount Carmel School's social media platforms, email, and the MCS website at www.mountcarmelsaipan.com.

For more information, call the main office at 234-6184 or the business office at 235-1201. *(PR)*

SIS uniquely prepared for possible pandemic

Dr. Ron Snyder's experience in Ukraine, which forced the closure of the school where he was at due to a possible H1N1 outbreak, is now serving him in good stead at the Saipan International School, where he is its headmaster.

Before coming to Saipan in 2016 and while serving as the secondary principal in Kiev, Ukraine, Snyder took the lead in moving classes online due to the forced closure of their school. Moving their classes online ensured the continuity of instruction, and teachers were able to successfully prepare their students for a demanding set of international baccalaureate exams in May.

Because of this success, Quality Schools International asked Snyder to become the founding director of QSI Virtual School, a post he held until 2014.

SIS has worked with the Division of Public Health to overhaul its admissions procedures and has issued a policy for students traveling to infected areas that includes a mandatory home quarantine.

"There is a lot of panic around COVID-19 currently and I believe that our children are in a safe place. But it is important to us to minimize any possible threat to our students' safety. So we have put in place measures



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan International School headmaster Dr. Ron Snyder, right, celebrating Wear Your Words Day by wearing excerpts from his dissertation, and SIS counselor Whit Altizer have their picture taken at a student safety meeting.

that exceeds governmental standards," said Snyder.

As a part of the student safety committee, SIS counselor Whit Altizer and school nurse April Liske-Clark worked with the leadership team to design an overarching policy to maximize student safety.

Snyder earned a doctor of education degree after completing a five-year study on best practices for student acceptance and use of online technologies. His findings included a focus on relatedness needs of students to increase engagement in an online environment. Building off of the design principles developed for the study, SIS has developed an online platform for instructional delivery that will

include daily video contact with teachers. All SIS teachers will undergo training in online learning next Monday and plans are in place for conducting a "virtual fire drill" to test out its system.

Additionally, with the support of Tim Thornburgh and federal programs, SIS was able to implement a 1:1 program in 2017, whereby each student has access to a device (iPad or laptop) to access the Internet for research and learning purposes. SIS students use technology daily at school and are familiar with learning systems such as Class Dojo, Google Classroom, Moodle, AP Classroom and the school's online learning management system, OpenSIS. *(Milagro Saiki/SIS)*



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**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR
ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES**

**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
ARFF RAPID REFILL IMPROVEMENTS
PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-008-19**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for improvements to the water system for ARFF rapid refill at the Airport Fire Station of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and/or wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 13, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 20, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 2/19/2020



**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
TSA RECAPITALIZATION PROGRAM**

PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-006-16

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport TSA Recapitalization Program Project, No. CPA-SA-006-16, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Transportation Security Administration (TSA). This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package. The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria outlined in the RFQ package.

Questions regarding this RFQ shall be addressed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager and delivered to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962, or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications. Qualification statements shall be submitted by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, APRIL 3, 2020 (CHST)**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to:

Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: February 27, 2020



**FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
EIGHT (8) ARFF ROLL UP DOORS REPLACEMENT**

PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-20

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS
FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING
DESIGN SERVICES**

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural and Engineering (A/E) Design Services for replacement of eight (8) roll up doors at the Airport Fire Station of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for RFQ are to be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to cpa.engr@pticom.com and/or wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, March 20, 2020, 5:00 p.m., local time.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, MARCH 27, 2020**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: 2/21/2020

IPI to rebury ancestral remains by July

There's now a definite reburial date of the human remains found on the Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC construction site in Garapan.

Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero said that IPI and the Historic Preservation Office came to a decision to rebury the remains this July.

According to Deleon Guerrero, both IPI and HPO are concerned about the remains due cultural reasons. He said that HPO is taking the lead in terms of where the human remains will be buried.

"They [HPO and IPI] have made sure they reached out to the communities on behalf of their concerns about the ancestral remains," he said. "It is very important that we respect our ancestors and have a common understanding on what is the best way to be respectful of the remains."

The CCC executive director said human remains found by developers in their construction sites should be treated with respect.

"Other developers should really think about this issue because this is not only a cost issue but an emotional [and] cultural issue [because they're] our ancestors," he said. *(Chevy Kate Alipio)*

Theft suspect turns herself in

A woman who is wanted by police turned herself in last Sunday, four days after a warrant was issued for her arrest for alleged theft.

According to a police report yesterday, Manuela "Leila" Johnson Guerrero surrendered to authorities last March 1, 2020. The next day, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo released Guerrero on her personal recognizance, with instructions to report to court later.

This comes soon after Superior Court Associate Judge Theresa Kim-Tenorio issued an arrest warrant for Guerrero last Feb. 26, 2020, at about 3:20pm, for the charges of theft. Bail was set at \$15,000.

According to the DPS report, police received a walk-in

complaint last Feb. 20, 2020, at about 11:50am, about a theft incident at the victims' home in Dandan. Police documented the report and interviewed the victims. Although the report did not indicate Guerrero's relation to the victims, separate court documents indicate that the victims were Guerrero's parents.

The victims told police that they were on an off-island trip and they trusted Guerrero to look after their home while they were gone. Upon returning from their trip, they noticed that most of their valuables within the home, including jewelry and fishing equipment, were missing. When the victims contacted Guerrero, she allegedly admitted to taking the items and pawning them. *(Saipan Tribune)*

Political status commission holds Rota outreach

The Second Marianas Political Status Commission had its first public education forum on Rota on Jan. 28 and 29 to, among other goals, solicit public input about the CNMI's current political status in relation to the United States.

At the forum, the commission listened, educated and present to people the history of the Covenant to establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands in Political Union with the United States and solicited public input about this status, along with other political status options.

Public Law 19-63 created the Second Marianas Political Status Commission to exam-

ine the political relationship between the United States of America and the CNMI. The commission was created to determine whether some other political status would "better enable the CNMI to fulfill their aspirations of full and meaningful self-government; and for other purposes."

The commission is in the process of launching a website.

The public is invited to attend future public education forums on Saipan and Tinian. Upcoming events and meeting dates will be updated on its Facebook page (Second Marianas Political Status Commission). Email the commission at 2ndmpsc@gmail.com. *(PR)*

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Opinion

Hafa Adair

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Voice of the *Titanic*: A historic device from the famed ship is at risk

The voice of the *Titanic* is at risk and a court fight over its retrieval should be handled both carefully and quickly.

The Marconi Wireless Telegraph Machine was a fairly new technology when it was used to send messages—"We require immediate assistance," "Have struck iceberg and sinking" and "We are putting women off in boats" among them—from the doomed ship after it struck an iceberg at 11:40 p.m. on April 14, 1912. The sinking cost the lives of all but about 700 of the *Titanic*'s 2,208 passengers and crew.

The concerns on both sides of the argument over retrieving the device are legitimate.

RMS Titanic Inc., a private company that is the court-recognized salvor or steward of *Titanic* artifacts, says time is running out to salvage it. The Marconi Wireless is in a room on the ship's deck, near a gymnasium whose ceiling has already collapsed, and the roof over the telegraph machine has begun to perforate.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which represents the public's interest in the wreck site, argues that prior rulings have blocked the firm from cutting holes or taking items from the wreck; the fear is that letting it retrieve the Marconi Wireless will serve as a precedent for further similar incursions.

And Karen Kamuda, president of the Massachusetts-based Titanic Historical Society Inc., says the site should be protected as a gravesite.

U.S. District Judge Rebecca Beach Smith of Norfolk, Va., the maritime jurist with jurisdiction over salvage efforts regarding the *Titanic*, said she needs more details before ruling on RMS Titanic's request.

While the public has an interest in protecting the *Titanic* wreck site from being pillaged for private gain, and in guarding the remains of those who perished in the 1912 tragedy, a way should be found to carefully retrieve the ship's wireless communicator before it is destroyed.

The public has an interest in the history that device represents, and what it can tell us about the final efforts to save the ship and the thousands of people on board. The voice of the *Titanic* should not be lost because of a drawn-out court fight.

(c)2020 Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



It's Bernie vs Biden. Let the Democratic infighting begin

Looks like President Trump was right to be scared of Joe Biden.

I didn't think the former vice president could pull it off, especially after his weak showings in Iowa, New Hampshire and Nevada.

When I saw Biden in Iowa last month, he didn't inspire confidence. He was shouty and kept referring to a written text, which seemed bizarre for a guy with more than a half-century of political experience.

But I underestimated his appeal to voters, especially black voters, thanks to the enduring power of his relationship with President Obama. Without the support of African Americans, there will be no Democratic president in 2021.

And on Saturday, after a decisive win in South Carolina, he was his best self: passionate, on point, sensitive, kind.

Biden is like an old robe you can slip into—not new or exciting, but comfortable at a time when many of us could use a little comfort.

On Tuesday, he racked up win after win: In Virginia, Minnesota, Massachusetts, North Carolina, Alabama, Arkansas, Tennessee. He won in Oklahoma where, reporters noted, he spent a mere \$60,000.

He by no means has a lock on the nomination, with Bernie Sanders still gaining delegates and maintaining his core of loyal supporters. But Biden has done much to reassure voters in recent days that, if he becomes the Democratic presidential nominee, the party will be in good hands.

Come November, Democratic voters and disaffected Republicans won't give a fig about the questionable business practices of his son. Yes, Republicans will hammer away at Hunter Biden's association with a Ukrainian oil company, but Hunter's not running for president.

And let's not forget: President Trump's children are the most blatant beneficiaries of nepotism in American history. Their father—not Hunter Biden—was the one who was charged with high crimes and misdemeanors over dealings with Ukraine.

Sanders supporters were hoping that Super Tuesday would provide a coronation of their favorite democratic socialist, but that does not appear to have happened. Yes, he won California, drawing young voters and Latino voters as expected. But Super Tuesday's mixed results signal that he and Biden are going to have to fight it out, and perhaps fight it out some more after that, all the way to the convention.

Biden is surely more palatable to the Democratic establishment, but Sanders' energizing effect on younger voters and Latino voters cannot be denied.

I keep hearing the same tired criticism of Sanders from moderate Democrats: He's been in the Senate a bajillion years (29 actually), but has authored little legislation. This is a specious assessment; Sanders has sponsored some 500 amendments, many of which have become law.

By ROBIN ABCARIAN
Los Angeles Times

Robin Abcarian is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times.



In any case, I would submit that Sanders' most important contribution to American life is that he has almost single-handedly forced the Democratic Party leftward. He has never, not once, forsaken his deeply held beliefs that income inequality is an American scourge, that tax breaks for the rich come at the expense of the poor and middle class, that the failures of our health care system are shameful, and that students should not bear life-long debt for their educations.

His intransigence alone is his crowning achievement. Would Biden, who helped make it almost impossible for students to discharge college debt, have even mentioned about the issue at his "victory" speech in California on Tuesday night had Sanders not pushed him in that direction?

As for the candidates who appear to be the also-rans of the Super Tuesday field: I'm sad that Elizabeth Warren's star has dimmed. She is such a decent human being, such a tenacious fighter for economic policies that favor the working and middle classes. When she needed to be harsh on the debate stage—as she was against Michael Bloomberg—she was devastating. When the moment called for conciliation, she was brilliant. She was organized, well-funded and seemed to have moved past the early stumbles over her heritage. Why did she never catch fire?

Billionaire Michael Bloomberg's demise is hardly a tragedy for Democrats. Yes, he is a plutocrat with a progressive streak. And sure, it would have been fun to watch him bait Trump. (In Nevada, Bloomberg trolled Trump with billboards: "Donald Trump went broke running a casino.") But the only reason for his candidacy was Biden's perceived weakness. Now that Biden has been eating his Wheaties, there's no room for the former New York mayor.

Here's the thing: I often joke that I'd vote for a ham sandwich if that's what the Democrats nominated, because frankly, an inert object would do less damage to our nation and our standing in the world than the current White House occupant has already done. Did you watch Trump's loopy, incoherent news conference about the coronavirus? At least sandwiches can't talk.

Now that the field has narrowed to two candidates, Democrats will have to make the difficult choice about who has the best chance to beat Trump.

My head says Biden, but my heart says Bernie.
I can live with either one.

Effects of coronavirus

The huge drop in the global economy has begun adversely affecting the islands in devastating ways.

Hotels have seen a huge drop in occupancy, some 40 employees have been released and the annual liberation day this year may be cancelled.

The closure of businesses in the visitor industry would translate into more job losses. It's a heavy issue for both businesses struggling to stay above water and employees whose job security is history.

Understood the seriousness of the issue—lack of healthy business activities here—that translates into losses beyond expectations. It's a regressive reality that doesn't leave much hope over the near term and leaves many asking: what next?

■ ■ ■

In Japan, all schools were closed while Iran released 54,000 prisoners to avoid the spread of the coronavirus. It's a nasty respiratory disease that grows on its own without cross-contamination.

We've seen our annual budget take a nosedive from the usual \$200 million-plus annually to a meager \$90 million. The reduction is attributable to the drop in the global economy.

■ ■ ■

Global travel and manufacturing have taken a nosedive by more than 50%. Concurrently, materials and supplies for the entire global community also drop in major ways.

The most consequential decision President Trump made was shut off all flights from countries where the deadly virus has spread like wildfire. Many of these countries aren't even equipped with adequate health care facilities to handle the increasing number of their people severely affected by the deadly virus.

Stunning the seeming apocalyptic strength of the virus that had every country on its knees. The grinding halt of the global

economy is a phenomenon never before seen in the global village over the last 50 years.

I haven't given up. I'd sit on my grandpa's chair at dawn and dusk meditating for better days ahead. I remember a biblical passage that says, "this too shall pass" and it will.

Unprepared

Beyond our mini-tourism industry, what other sector have we developed as cushion when the industry heads south like the current experience?

In the midst of the huge drop of the local economy, apparently we've failed to work on a set of plans that prepares the NMI to muddle along even with a \$40-million loss from tourism. Does it matter that we're negligent on this score? Ever heard of the term "planning"? Is one in motion now or "not yet, already?"

The obvious complacency by which we treat our economic future doesn't leave much room for hopeful and brighter tomorrows. Appalling that the lights are on but nobody seems to be home. Need we boast lamaanana in grand fashion? It's an issue of leadership!

Beyond

We face the same issues that matter. Some take it in stride, others ignore it, while still others accept the challenge and move forward with courage.

The assured decrease of the economy is troubling. It spells disaster as revenue depletes. The severity of the decrease and its return to normalcy is anybody's guess.

Indeed, this is the first time that a serious respiratory disease threatens the islands. It's good to know that we don't have it now and hope it is keeps this way moving forward. Its effects here and elsewhere are devastating.

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



The local economy is headed into deep trouble given our reliance on the mini-tourism industry that has gone south. It's a serious challenge that has turned the terms "dip" and "cut" into daily usage most everywhere.

Time to reset buttons by planning for our future in spite of it all!

Dems

Former vice president Joe Biden has emerged the national Democratic Party's presidential candidate. It was a hard-fought victory and Biden would eventually be sharing his gaffes. Didn't he recently announce he was in Iowa while in Idaho?

With Trump's towering economic success, it would be interesting what Biden would bring by way of table issues for hard-working Americans. At least he has his usual gaffes to contend with, like "Super Thursday" (Tuesday).

Is there anything for territories or are we the usual empty jar left unattended atop the kitchen counter? I mean we're used to serving as dustbin until someone cleans our filthy faces by accident. Hope there's greater inclusion moving forward.

Interesting that the global village moves about to contain the coronavirus while we peep into our coffers to see if there's anything left for basic needs. Said Magoo, "Wen natting, den natting!" Is deficit spending the next order of business?

Bargaining with the Taliban devil

President Donald Trump was rightly critical of the deal struck with Cuba during the Obama administration when he said the communist Cuban government got everything they wanted, and the U.S. got nothing in exchange. He has thankfully been reversing some of those unilateral concessions.

Let's apply his standard to the recently announced "peace deal" with the Taliban. Under terms of the agreement, as reported in the Washington Times, "The U.S. will free 5,000 Taliban prisoners and begin to remove sanctions on top Taliban leaders."

What does the U.S. get in return? The agreement, reportedly, asserts that we start calling them the Islamic Emirate, even though the U.S. doesn't recognize it as a state. They have agreed to release "1,000 people from 'the other side' held by the militant group, all before March 10."

Also in exchange for removing U.S. troops from Afghanistan, a goal long sought by the president, the Taliban has agreed to permanently cut all ties with terrorist groups, including al-Qaida, and to never allow Afghanistan to again become the center for extremist organizations. How do they do that when they have been involved in terrorism—some of it supported by the Iranian regime—that has caused the deaths of many American troops?

Beginning March 10 in Norway, the Taliban also pledges to

engage in formal talks with the Afghan government, which it has never recognized as legitimate. I'm betting the Nobel committee will hand out a "peace prize" to Taliban leaders in the final corruption of that once prestigious award (they also gave one to PLO terrorist leader Yasser Arafat).

The president is right that nearly 19 years after al-Qaida's terrorist attack on America, the nation, not to mention brave American soldiers who have suffered through multiple deployments and family absences, are tired of the conflict. The late al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden was also right when he predicted U.S. battle fatigue would occur in Afghanistan and used Vietnam as an example. And many people are correct when they say America cannot police the world. So, who will in our absence?

In a statement released by her office, House GOP conference chair, Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.), expressed the skepticism many feel when she said, "Releasing thousands of Taliban fighters, lifting sanctions on international terrorists, and agreeing to withdraw all U.S. forces in exchange for promises from the Taliban, with no disclosed mechanism to verify Taliban compliance, would be reminiscent of the worst aspects of the Obama Iran nuclear deal."

A telling picture at the signing ceremony between two Taliban

By CAL THOMAS

Tribune Content Agency

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com. Look for Cal Thomas' new book, America's Expiration Date: The Fall of Empires and Superpowers and the Future of the United States (HarperCollins/Zondervan).



and one American official saw the Taliban members smiling and the American looking sober. Yet the agreement is already being tested. BBC News reports that the Taliban is set "... to resume attacks against government forces, just days after signing a deal with the US aimed at bringing peace to Afghanistan."

The key in all this is whether other nations, especially those which have faced—and still face—terrorist attacks will meet their responsibilities in helping to police this deal. The worst outcome would be a regrouping of terrorists in Afghanistan and another attack on the United States, which next time might result in more deaths than occurred on Sept. 11.

Guess which president would be blamed should that occur?

Why you should be thankful for Michael Bloomberg and his half-billion-dollar campaign

The Twittersverse is aflame with righteous indignation about former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg's short-lived presidential campaign. In addition to the usual class-based resentments, there were plenty of observations about the great things he could have done for people in need, for millennials or for humanity in general with the more than half a billion dollars he spent on advertisements.

I wasn't a Bloomberg backer, but that's just silly. Bloomberg's an attractive target because of the scale of his spending, but the principle is the same. It's a rare human being who devotes more than 20% of his or her income to charity, let alone every available dollar. Bloomberg, at least, has pledged to give the majority of his wealth to philanthropic causes (and that doesn't include elections).

And you know what? Bloomberg's personal fortune remains many times larger than the amount he spent on his campaign. He has plenty of money left to do good works. It's not an either/or question here—either Bloomberg runs for the presidency or he does something the Twittersverse considers worthwhile with his money.

Besides, for voters who put a top priority on responding to

climate change, replacing President Trump with someone who recognizes the problem and tries to solve it instead of exacerbating it is worth half a billion dollars in campaign ads, isn't it? Can you put a dollar value on averting the climate-related catastrophes heading our way?

You could make that argument about other Bloomberg campaign planks too, such as his support for aggressive gun control. It's not a waste of money to promote unsuccessfully the changes you believe in; it's just a failure.

Even people who are cynical about the role of money in politics should be thankful for Bloomberg's effort and the valuable lessons it provided. First, it showed that personal wealth alone can't guarantee you a place on the ballot. Second, it showed that policy proposals alone won't make the sale either—voters care not just about the message, but the messenger. Democrats may have trouble countenancing an enormously wealthy man at the top of their ticket (although not, it should be noted, during the Great Depression), but what they really can't abide is a candidate who comes across as arrogant and disconnected from the impact of said policies.

By JON HEALEY

Los Angeles Times

Jon Healey is the Los Angeles Times' deputy editorial page editor.

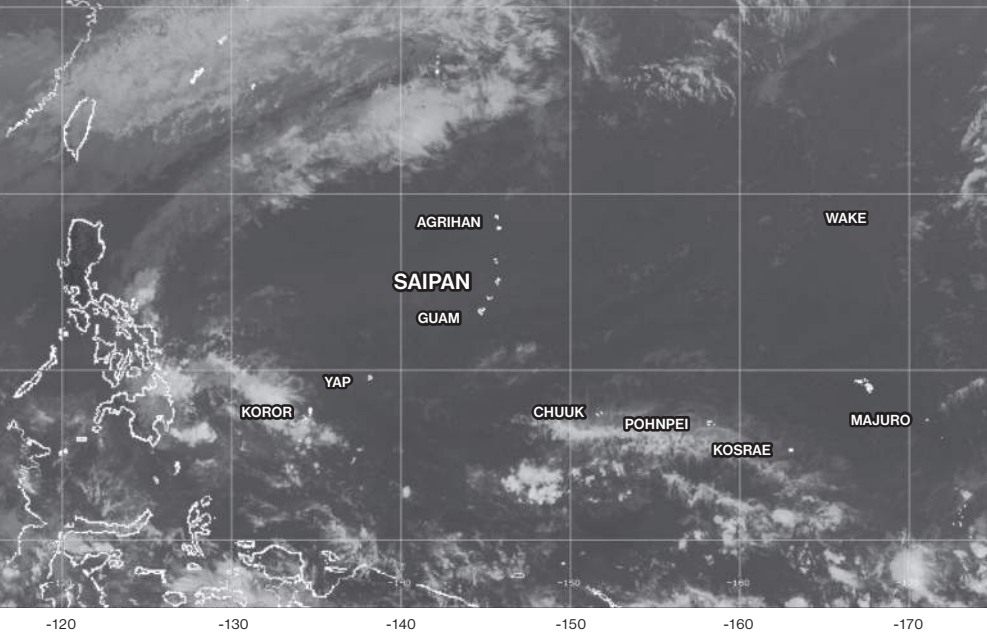


Third, skipping the "retail" phase of the presidential race—the hobnobbing, the baby-kissing, the town halls and, yes, the Iowa caucuses—only postpones the reckoning that every candidate must face. Former Vice President Joe Biden's resilience in the face of the drubbings he took in the early contests is a big part of his story. And fourth, debates matter. Yes, they can be boring, and yes, they go on too long, and yes, the format kinda stinks. But without that debate in Las Vegas, Michael Bloomberg may well still be in this campaign.

These lessons are worth every dollar Bloomberg paid for them.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly cloudy. A slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.		Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
87°	75°	87°	75°	87°	75°	87°	77°	87°	76°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 7:10 AM, THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2020
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

No changes made to the forecast. A dry weather pattern will prevail across the Marianas through the forecast. Partly cloudy skies and isolated showers at best will prevail through the weekend. 500 mb relative humidity will remain below 20 percent through the weekend. This will keep shower activity to a minimum and to illustrate the dryness the accumulated rain fall through the forecast will be less than a quarter of an inch.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲	▼	°F
Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	84° / 75°			
Palau	Partly Cloudy	85° / 78°			
Yap	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°			
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°			
Pohnpei	Windy	86° / 79°			
Kosrae	Windy	86° / 79°			
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	85° / 80°			

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲	▼	°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	72° / 61°			
Beijing	Sunny	59° / 34°			
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75° / 70°			
Honolulu	Showers	78° / 70°			
London	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 36°			
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 53°			
Manila	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°			
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	66° / 55°			
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	82° / 60°			
New York	Showers	46° / 33°			
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	57° / 48°			
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	48° / 37°			
Busan	Rain	54° / 46°			
Rome	Showers	59° / 45°			
Salem	Sunny	61° / 35°			
San Francisco	Cloudy	53° / 46°			
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	50° / 30°			
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	54° / 45°			
Washington, DC	Windy	51° / 35°			

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- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:12 AM	HIGH TIDE		1.65
11:16 AM	LOW TIDE		1.15
4:05 PM	HIGH TIDE		1.65
11:34 PM	LOW TIDE		-0.30

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:29 AM	6:26 PM
Monday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM
Tuesday	6:28 AM	6:26 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:17 AM	2:53 PM
Saturday	-	4:13 AM	3:55 PM
Sunday	-	5:08 AM	4:58 PM
Monday	-	6:00 AM	6:02 PM
Tuesday	-	6:49 AM	7:04 PM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEBRUARY 6, 2020							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA156	6:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	UA112	4:45pm	5:26pm	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
SKY816	4:35pm	7:30pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7	SKY811	10:15am	3:00pm	Daily
SKY816	5:05pm	8:00pm	6				
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
7C3451	3:20am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:30am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:30am+1	3
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:05am	6:05am	Daily	OZ6233	7:30am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6
OZ626	2:10am	6:05am	1	OZ623	8:10am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ626	3:35am	7:20am	4	TW309	11:10am	4:40pm	Daily
7C3403	4:35am	8:35am	Daily	OZ625	7:30pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ6243	3:10pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6	TW307	7:45pm	1:05am+1	Daily
OZ624	3:30pm	7:20pm	1, 3, 5, 7	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	OZ625	9:05pm	2:25am+1	3
TW310	5:40pm	10:15pm	Daily	7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/701	2:10am	10:35am	1 via ICN	UA189/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:35am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/625	12:05pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	OZ702/625	12:05pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
UA156/183	6:20pm	9:50pm	Daily via GUM	UA192/174	10:40pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA156/193	6:20pm	11:50pm	2 via GUM-ROR	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
				OZ704/6233	11:45pm	12:50pm+1	2, 4, 6 via ICN
				OZ704/623	11:45pm	1:40pm+1	1, 3 via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN	OZ746/6233	12:35am	12:50pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ746/623	12:35am	1:40pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN
OZ626/721	3:35am	11:50am	4 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ6243/9661	3:10pm	11:15pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ624/9661	3:30pm	11:15pm	1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	OZ722/625	1:15pm	2:25am+1	3 via ICN
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, BC SkyMark ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. <i>(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)</i>							
STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.							
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily				
				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
				2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
				2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

An artistic painting of a woman's face and hair. She has a serene expression with her eyes closed. Her hair is dark and voluminous, adorned with a large, vibrant pink flower crown. The background is a soft, ethereal wash of pink and white, with delicate, dark speckles scattered throughout, giving it a dreamlike quality. The overall style is soft and painterly.

Women of Excellence

A SAIPAN TRIBUNE ADVERTISING SUPPLEMENT
6 MARCH 2020

March is International Women's Month. Here, we give a roundup of some of the women featured in our Women of Excellence series where we were able to spend time and talk to women in the CNMI who are role models and have made an impact just by being themselves and pursuing their passion.

It is to the CNMI's credit that there are many such empowered women in the Commonwealth, that we

Breaking barriers, shattering ceilings

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

don't have enough space to feature all of them, so this series is intended to be just a brief sampling of the women in the CNMI who are making a difference in the community, who believe in positive experiences, have shown inspirational achievements, and motivate by example.

Janice Marie Ada Tenorio holds two important positions in the IT industry and education. As Customer Service and Government Rela-

tions manager of IT&E CNMI, she helps build the strong and wide-ranging network of contacts and vast customer base of IT&E CNMI. As chairperson of the CNMI Board of Education, she has been governing the board and policy-making body of the CNMI Public School System for two

consecutive terms. "I am a strong believer of and advocate for teamwork. Regardless of what organization one belong to or the amount of task one is expected of and or presented with, I am motivated by the people that I work and serve with," she said



HERE'S TO STRONG WOMEN

Michelle Atalig

People Operations, Business Partner building a team of strong women at DOCOMO PACIFIC

May we know them, we may be them, may we raise them.



Tenorio

"While I served in two entirely different organizations, it is worth to note that they both embrace the importance of teamwork through open communication. ...Both IT&E CNMI and the CNMI Board of Education value the importance of communication as an essential part of being a successful service provider and organization," she added. While the bar of expecta-

tions for what she does for both the organizations is high, Tenorio says she makes sure that she commit time for her family and herself. "It is essential that we are able to balance work and personal life. We achieve this by giving time for yourself and to the people that inspire and motivate you to strive and work harder," she said. "What is important also is how I am enormously proud

See **BREAKING** on Page 13



Clayton

BREAKING

From Page 12

to belong to these organizations that value the importance of community engagement and partnership, of reaching out and supporting worthy causes that help improve the way of life of the people from this beautiful community of ours," she added.

Diana Clayton is an advocate of using one's beauty to champion a cause. When we say beauty pageants, the default image is that of beautiful women, gowns, swimwear and the question-and-answer portion. Clayton wants to add another facet to this image.

As president of the Miss Earth Northern Mariana franchise, Clayton helps steer the pageant to achieve what it was created for—to promote

this experience, albeit new, has been life-changing. "I look forward to make a career of this. ...The work and commitment I put helps me share learning experiences with others...and more active within our community," she said.

Toward this end, Clayton has set five important goals for herself for the first six months of the year. That includes putting in the time to promote environmental issues that the CNMI faces, educating children in school, socializing within the community through volunteer and public events, and being more engaged in spreading awareness.

Shortly after moving to Saipan in 2012, **Beth Pliscou** founded the Saipan Cares for Animals group, of which she is currently the director. She describes Saipan Cares for Animals as a dedicated group



environmental awareness using beauty pageants as a medium.

According to Clayton, the organization was established two years two years ago and the first Miss Earth pageant was held just last year. "As president, I focus on promoting and coordinating the Miss Earth organization, along with my team, which is composed of different committees and awesome volunteers. I've always been driven to put myself out there to help our community to be aware of what is going on with our environment," she said.

"I have been intentional in learning the islands' environmental issues and whatever result I gather pushes me to commit to educating people to be aware," she said.

The work may sound simple but Clayton admits that

of volunteers whose mission is to improve the life of every animal on Saipan through sterilization, medication and socialization. "We do this by helping the animals directly and offering the community low-cost pet care services," Pliscou said. That explains the overflowing number of people who visit Saipan Cares for Animals everyday to have their pets vaccinated or dewormed, among other pet services.

"The overpopulation of dogs and cats on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota is a huge but fixable problem. This can only be accomplished by spay/neuter. Killing them one by one...clearly doesn't work. I'm motivated to do the work that I do and lower this overpopulation problem every time I see an animal suffering, which is every day,"

See **BREAKING** on Page 14



**“all
May women
be free to dream,
express, create
and live their
deepest heart's
desires...”**
- Amethyst Wyldfyr

Happy International Women's Day!

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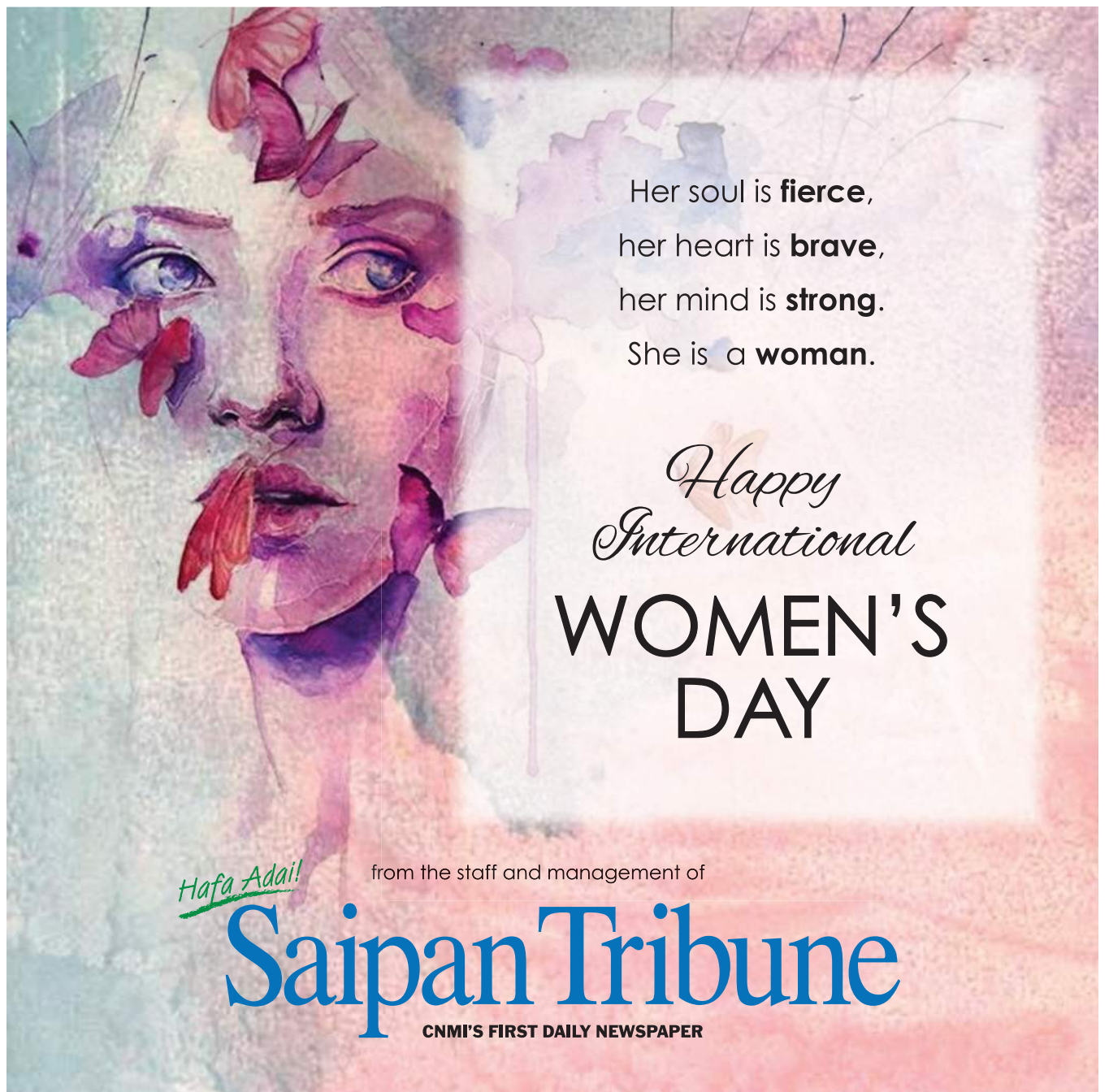


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Her soul is **fierce**,
her heart is **brave**,
her mind is **strong**.
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*Happy
International*
**WOMEN'S
DAY**

Hafa Adai! from the staff and management of
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

'A once-in-a-lifetime experience'

By LEISHA DELEON GUERRERO
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Becoming the first-ever Miss Northern Marianas Earth is a once-in-a-lifetime experience I am forever grateful for. Miss Earth is the biggest environmentally-themed pageant worldwide. It is a pageant that serves a purpose, and is becoming ever so relevant due to the state of our earth. Being a beauty queen has allowed me to serve our community, protect our islands,

and represent our people.

This platform has allowed me to work with numerous private businesses, schools, and organizations, which allowed me to launch community projects independently and for our community, such as my successful 5Rs Campaign. I was able to travel island to island and internationally, such as Japan and the Philippines, while representing our home. Also, being a title holder enabled me to inspire young *magahagas*

and push them toward a path of leadership and success.

Aside from creating an impact here on our islands, I was blessed with amazing experiences while competing in the international pageant. Since competing on a global platform, I was able to advocate for environmental concerns on a much bigger platform, along with the 86 other countries who competed alongside me. While competing, I created a monthlong worth of memo-

ries, met strong women from all over the world, and created memories while traveling all over the Philippines. While in the Philippines, I was able to work with international designers who created beautiful pieces such as my evening gown and national costume, which represented our islands in all ways possible. Furthermore, I was able to train in the Philippines, working on my on-stage performance professionally. I will always be grateful for the

amazing team behind my success, and the Miss Northern Marianas Earth committee for helping me achieve a successful reign.

Being a part of Miss Earth has opened up many opportunities for me locally and internationally. It has helped

me grow independently and taught me essential life skills. Being a part of this journey celebrates beauty and empowers women of all ages. You serve as a representative and an ambassador for the Northern Mariana Islands as a whole.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2019 Miss Northern Marianas Earth Leisha Deleon Guerrero.

BREAKING

From Page 13

Pliscou added.

Catherine M. Attao, who is vice president of Corporate

employees and the community. That focus on organizational development and company culture has enabled her office, together with the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, to support the community in the areas



Attao

Human Resources and Corporate Affairs of Tan Holdings, says she is glad to belong to a company that values em-

of health, education, and environment

It helps that Attao loves
See **BREAKING** on Page 15

BREAKING

From Page 14

what she does. "In order to be successful in anything, it has to come from the heart. When you act from the heart, one will find a way to make things happen."

She also gives credit to her faith ("...my life and day-to-day schedule is very much based on faith. What our Lord brings me to, He will get me through") and to her very supportive husband.

"Being blessed with each new day, I hope to add value and make a difference in our community and for our youth," she added.

Attao believes that her role involves not just providing a strong support system to TanHoldings, but also includes nurturing women and the youth and building a more resilient community ("supporting TanHoldings through the challenges that all business are facing, increase women and girls' camaraderie in soccer by promoting participation, health, and exercise, learn and engage with all Northern Marianas Technical Institute stakeholders, and expand my knowledge on career paths for my children and their peers," she said.

Named as one of the Obama Foundation Future Leaders last year, **Sami Birmingham-Babauta** is passionate about

work in different [capacities] to accomplish this, my niche is teaching and promoting active living and using physi-

**Birmingham-Babauta**

improving the overall health of the CNMI community. She knows that this work is not easy, but she also knows that it can be done.

"Improving the overall health of the community is multi-faceted, with things like improving access to health care and advocating for policies that create environments that support physical activity (sidewalks, bike lanes, fitness parks). While I

cal activity to prolong life and prevent diseases," she said.

Birmingham-Babauta admits that keeping good health is a global challenge and working to tackle that can be related to being an Obama Leader. Last year, she was one of the 199 young Obama Foundation Leaders to be selected from all over the world. "The Obama Future Leaders Program is about bringing emerging

young leaders in the Asia and Pacific region together. ...Going through the workshops they had for us was empowering. ...At the convention in Kuala Lumpur, I realized that a lot of us are fighting the same battles in our homes, and connecting us reminded us that our work is important and we are not alone," she said.

Birmingham-Babauta has held several positions at the Commonwealth Health Care Corp., worked as program manager of 500 Sails, and is now with Northern Marianas College-CREES in the Nutrition and Health Program.

Justice and service are sources of missions for **Pamela Brown Blackburn**, more popularly known on the islands as Pam Brown. She loves public service work and always wakes up in the morning thrilled to make a difference in other people's lives.

As executive director of Pacific Ombudsman Humanitarian Law, majority of her work focuses on assisting victims of human trafficking, labor exploitation, and domestic and sexual violence. "POHL was formed to help victims of abuse, both domestic and foreign-born. ...The other major area of work deals with representing

Chinese Christian refugees fleeing persecution in China. These areas of legal services are complex, emotionally charged, and always gratifying," she said.

Blackburn is a chartering member of Soroptimist International of the Northern Mariana Islands and has had many positions with SINMI, including president and chair of its Ways and Means Committee and currently the secretary and chair of

the "Live Your Dream" Award Committee.

"The prime focus of all of our projects is serving women's needs, from Dress for Success, to mentoring programs for women entering the workforce for the first time or re-entering the workforce. Our No. 1 program and the reason for much of our fundraising activities is the 'Live Your Dream' annual award," she added.

See **BREAKING** on Page 16

**Blackburn**

There is no limit to what we,
as **women**, can accomplish.

*Happy International
Women's Day*

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BREAKING

From Page 15

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Laboratory manager **Heidi Yelin's** work is about trying to protect the health and safety of all who live



Yelin

in the Marianas by making sure that we have clean drinking water.

"...I ensure that all the staff follow all the CUC Laboratory standard operating procedures for collecting, receiving, and testing samples. ...This helps maintain the CUC Laboratory and CNMI Bureau of Environment and Coastal Quality certification for analysis of drinking water samples for total coliform and E.coli," she said.

"CUC Saipan water system has made huge improvements in my 15 years. ...There was much to learn and I continue to learn every day, which keeps life and the job interesting. It's gratifying to share what I've learned about water and wastewater with others, customers, friends and especially students," she added.

Donna Krum runs both the Paradise Dental Spa and Friends First Marketing Inc., which is the plan administrator of the least expensive dental plan in the CNMI, "Is-



Krum

land Smiles Discount Dental Plan." Formerly a co-leader of The Compassionate Friends, a grief support group from 2013 to 2018, Krum is currently the president of Soroptimist International of the Northern Mariana Islands, where she also used to be

the Ways & Means chair, and club secretary.

Krum said that part of woman success is how much she values people and relationships. "I've always wanted to go out there and be involved in everything in the community because of the relationships that develop out of that. ...Show up, play nice, and just go everywhere that you can go to build friendships because it's all those relationships that will help you solve all issues and...I am thankful that I've been so fortunate in my business life," she said.

"I was just really willing to show up, learn new things, and people always wanted to take me with them. I wasn't a person that knew what I wanted to be when I grew up. I just grew wherever I was planted, did the best I could no matter where I was, and the rest just kind of took care of itself," she added.

According to Krum, her immediate plans include starting a Mom Group for

women who have lost children, continue working on the "spa" portion of Paradise Dental Center, start an Alcoholics' Anonymous/Narcot-



Tolentino

ics Anonymous family group ("the CNMI does not currently have this valuable resource for family members who have been affected by a loved one's alcohol and/or drug addiction") and "continue to learn something new every day."

As executive director of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation, which is the charitable arm of TanHoldings, **Merlie Torres Tolentino** has been at the forefront of many projects and events. That untiring effort was recognized in January this year at the annual gala of Saipan Chamber of Commerce, when the TSL Foundation was recognized as the 2019 Non-Profit of the Year for its many charitable acts, events, and projects that

ways bends toward helping [improve] the society that we live in, no matter how small or big our contributions may be. I hope I get to deliver that

message to others through my job," Tolentino added.

Roberta Guerrero has been the executive director of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance since March 2017. MINA's mission is about empowering communities for conservation. As such, MINA creates and implements programs that focus on a number of environmental issues.

"These include marine debris prevention, watershed management, climate change, and island resiliency. The main programs that are currently in progress are the Schools for Environmental Conservation that engages students and their teachers in workshops and field trips. Students learn about how



Guerrero

help uplift individuals and families in the CNMI.

"...It is great to be recognized by business people. All of us are working hard, whether in business or charitable works, to help the CNMI. ...I hope that...I get to inspire others with what I do," Tolentino said. "I hope that my hard work somehow inspires others to give their all in any job that they do. ...At the TSL [Foundation], we do not only work for ourselves, for the company or to support our families but...it al-

they can help conserve the CNMI's fragile environment, after which they develop Conservation Action Plans for their school campuses.

"MINA also has a very successful 'Bring Back our Trees' campaign that is replacing trees lost along coastlines due to typhoons Soudelor and Yutu. In addition to these two programs, MINA's Tasi Watch Rangers are the 'eyes of the ocean' and work in partnership with the Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality to conduct

surveillance for environmental infractions in the priority watershed area of Garapan, and clean up illegal dumping sites, and handle the reveg-

profit, giving good service comes first. Our service comes from the heart and not from the pocket. Of course, we need to earn to



Shrestha

etation projects in LaoLao," she added.

Everest Kitchen president **Laxmi Shrestha**, who hails from Nepal, believes that if you work hard and hold tight to your vision, life will give you what your heart desires. For almost six years now since Everest Kitchen opened, that has been the guiding force for Shrestha, who lives everyday with intent and purpose, while sharing good things from where she came from.

"My husband, Chola, came to Saipan in 1997 and I followed in 2003 and worked in a household. A year later, I transferred to Nikko Hotel and worked as a cook and, even if we worked for some-

survive but...we will [never] compromise what the customers want as they are family to us," she said.

Lyza Johnston is a coral reef ecologist and has been studying coral reefs from Rota to the Northern Islands. Recently, Johnston was awarded a contract to help the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration establish the first ocean-based coral nursery in the CNMI.

"This is a very exciting project that will eventually provide local managers with corals for restoring degraded reefs around the CNMI. The nursery was installed last year and is doing really well



Johnston

body else every day, our dream of having our own business someday kept us going," she said.

She estimates that about 35% of the people who go to Everest Kitchen everyday are the same individuals and that speaks to her about their expectations.

"...More than earning a

so far and I am excited about maintaining and expanding the coral nursery as we will be doubling the capacity of the nursery the first half of the year," she said.

"I am also working on building partnerships with local, regional, and international organizations to

See **BREAKING** on Page 17

BREAKING

From Page 16

provide more resources for local managers and conservationists. I want to expand my business, hire my first full-time employee, and support at least one local student intern over the summer. Finally, I am hoping to establish a non-profit organization in the CNMI dedicated to coral reef research and conservation," she added.

Being in this field for 18 years, **Lauri B. Ogumoro** knows this work all too well. She has been the executive director of Karidat Social Ser-

**Ogumoro**

vices since 2015 and sits as chairperson of the Commonwealth Health Care Corp.'s board of trustees.

Social work is a coura-

and the larger CNMI community. "We provide check and balance to the chief executive officer of CHCC, who oversees the daily operations. ...It is a big challenge especially without the financial resources we truly need," she added.

Saipan-born **Asia Hilario**, who was recently honored as its Woman of the Year by a women empowerment organization in South San Francisco in California, continues to make waves after being chosen as one of guest speakers at Imagine Talks. Hilario was one of the 20 speakers that talked about leadership and life lessons at the 6th Annual Conference of Imagine Talks this year that was held at the Oakland Asian Cultural Center last Jan. 18, 2020.

Hilario, who was named Woman of the Year last year by Women on the Rise, is currently based in San Jose, California. She is a lifestyle blogger advocating women empowerment, mental health, and wellness. She is a crisis counselor for CrisisTextLine, and a brand ambassador for Kuros, an organization whose mission is to enhance the safety and mobility of women around the world.

In an earlier interview, Hilario said that by lifting other women, an entire community and society can elevate. "Women are powerful beings, who can do incredible things, and by empowering them (giving them resources, offering support, encourag-

**Hilario**

geous and, most of the time, an emotional fight. "One has to learn as a social worker to leave work at work. ... We see and hear some of the worst things that can happen in a person's life and this is the kind of job that can be 24 hours a day. ...I have witnessed victims become survivors and have walked with them through some of the darkest days of their lives..." she said of her job at Karidat.

As for her other job as a CHCC trustee, Ogumoro said she has a fiduciary duty to understand the needs of the Commonwealth Health Center

ing them, educating them, giving them a voice) we can change the world."

Part of her advocacy is trying to break the negative stigma around mental health. "I'm trying to de-stigmatize seeking mental help for those who need it. The more we talk about mental health, the braver people will be to not only seek help, but to speak about it as well. The biggest struggle I've had in the past was feeling like I was alone in my struggles. I want to use my voice to make sure that no one else feels that they're alone in their struggles," she added.

Marcia "Ruri" Ayuyu, who manages two McDonald's restaurants on Saipan, oversees all aspects of the busi-

**Ayuyu**

ness for the two McDonald's restaurants on Saipan, representing the McDonald's brand and building a strong team of 120 employees at the same time. She is also president of the Rotary Club Saipan—roles that she said requires good stewardship and a finely-tuned sense of balance.

"In my business, I want my employees to know that... they are just not my employees... I treat them as part of my family and they motivate me. Same goes for our customers every single day. ... Just seeing their smiles and happy faces makes me want to do more, makes me committed to be better every day," she said.

As president of the Rotary Club Saipan, Ayuyu takes on this position with heart and grit. "I take the Rotary's

mission 'Rotary connects the world' to heart." That means encouraging Rotarians to ring in more members to become a part of the organization. "I believe the more members we have, the more tasks we can achieve," Ayuyu said.

Ayuyu says she has a knack for organizing herself—a talent that always serves her in good stead. "I have my way of prioritizing and I make time for myself and my loved ones," she added.

Kanae S. Quinn has been involved in various fields and skills that includes consulting, fitness, education and training, community outreach, and marriage counseling.

She manages her time at

Quinn Consulting, LLC doing hospitality and events consulting service; at Marianas Fitness Ltd. as part-owner of a gym where she teaches spin class; as a hospitality and career training instructor at Latte Training Academy; board member of the Make-A-Wish Guam and CNMI, where she has been for six years now; and Worldwide Marriage Encounter, helping CNMI couples and families enhance their relationships. That breadth of experience has given Quinn a clear-eyed view of what

being a "woman of excellence" is.

"My view of 'women of excellence' may not necessarily conform to the norm. A person who has achieved a certain level of financial success or a prestigious position, title or award, is not always an excellent woman," she said. "An excellent woman values relationships and time with family and friends. She's not 'too busy' for you. She's kind, willing to help others, is a good listener and one you want to invite for parties as she's fun as well."

**Quinn**

You are
**powerful,
brilliant
and brave**

Happy International Women's Day!



From the management and staff of

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Fax: 322-7414
Email: wushin2@pticom.com



A **woman**
in **any** form shall be
celebrated and honored,
be it, a **sister** or a **wife**
or a **mother**
or any other form.

Happy International Women's Day!

From the management and staff of



Tan Holdings

www.tanholdings.com



Tan Siu Lin
Foundation

Business

United is 1st to cut US flying due to virus outbreak

United Airlines will reduce flights, freeze hiring and ask employees to volunteer for unpaid leave as the airline struggles with weak demand for travel because of the new virus outbreak.

United said Wednesday that starting in April it will reduce passenger-carrying capacity 20% on international routes and 10% in the U.S.—the first airline to cut domestic flying. United officials said they will temporarily ground an unspecified number of planes.

The moves by United are the clearest sign yet of the financial harm to U.S. airlines from the virus, which has already led them to suspend

flights to China and reduce service to other countries.

United announced the cuts shortly after several airline CEOs met at the White House with President Donald Trump and Vice President Mike Pence. The administration is seeking the airlines' help in tracing travelers who might have come in contact with people ill with COVID-19.

The virus "is affecting the airline business, as it would," Trump said after the meeting. "A lot of people are staying in our country, and they're shopping and using our hotels in this country. So from that standpoint, I think probably there is a positive impact,

but there is also an impact on overseas travel, which will be fairly substantial."

Acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf, who was also in the meeting, said his agency has screened more than 53,000 people "and prevented a number of folks from coming into the country" largely because of cooperation from the airlines. He did not elaborate.

Wolf said the administration wants additional information about travelers so that public-health agencies can "get in touch with them, looking for a few more pieces of information and data from them."

The airline CEOs said their companies have stepped up

cleaning procedures to help protect passengers and employees from the virus.

United's decision to reduce flying came shortly after Germany's Lufthansa announced it would park 150 planes because of falling demand.

Airline bookings have slumped as the outbreak has spread beyond China to the U.S. and dozens of other countries. Some large corporations have banned or limited employee travel, and a few large business conferences have been canceled.

At Chicago-based United, the deepest reductions in flying will be between the U.S.

and Asia—a cut of 50%. United, like Delta and American, suspended service to mainland China and Hong Kong last month. United will also chop 10% from its schedule between the U.S. and Europe, 5% to Latin America.

United officials said they don't plan to abandon service to any U.S. cities, but they will eliminate some routes as part of the 10% cut in the April schedule for domestic service. For example, the airline will stop flying from Chicago to Eugene, Oregon, but it will continue to serve Eugene from San Francisco and Denver. It will also reduce the number of

daily flights on some routes.

United's top executives said they expect those reductions to extend into May, but they have not determined what to do after that—it will depend on bookings over the next few weeks.

CEO Oscar Munoz and President Scott Kirby said hiring has been frozen at least through June 30 except for critical positions. And they said in a letter to employees that beginning immediately, U.S.-based workers could apply for a voluntary, unpaid leave of absence or a reduced schedule. Officials said the company does not plan layoffs. (AP)

China's factories try to shield workers as output revives

BEIJING (AP)—To keep his 40 employees indoors and away from China's virus outbreak, the manager of an electronics factory in Dongguan, near Hong Kong, says he hired a cook and arranged dormitories for them.

Cjtouch Electronic Co., which makes smartphone touch screens, is one of thousands of manufacturers trying to protect employees while they gradually reopen after anti-virus controls shut down much of the world's second-largest economy.

"We have adopted strict prevention measures," said its general manager, Zhang Feng.

Trying to curb the soaring cost of anti-virus controls, the ruling Communist Party has told local officials in areas deemed at low disease risk to help reopen factories that make the world's smartphones, toys and other consumer goods.

They were idled when Beijing extended the Lunar New Year holiday to keep workplaces empty in hopes of containing the virus that emerged in central China in December. Offices, restaurants, cinemas and shopping malls also were closed.

Officials have orders to prevent a spike in infections as millions of workers who returned to their hometowns for the holiday flow back to China's southeastern factory belt and big eastern cities.

Following government instructions, factory operators are buying face masks by the thousands and jugs of disinfectant. Employees are scrutinized for the virus's telltale fever.

Some manufacturers bar outsiders. Others remain closed due to a lack of employees or raw materials.

Cjtouch is in Guangdong province, home to thousands of export-driven factories. It is back to 90% of normal

production, Zhang said. In the three weeks since it reopened employees have used more than 3,000 masks, he said.

"We hired someone to cook for employees so they don't need to eat outside and persuaded them to stay in dormitories and not go out," Zhang said.

The government has told anyone who can work from home to stay there, but factories need employees on their assembly lines.

Some still are stranded in their hometowns by the suspension of bus and train service or curbs on leaving areas deemed at high disease risk.

Mingliang Electronics Co. in the eastern city of Weifang in Shandong province resumed work this week with 20 of its 30 employees, said a manager who would give only her surname, Liu. The company makes circuit boards for U.S., European, South Korean and Japanese customers.

"The rest cannot make it due to restrictions on movement ordered by local authorities in the countryside," said Liu.

Those who are at work wear masks and are checked twice a day for fever, Liu said.

"We keep the place clean by disinfecting three times a day, mopping the floor and wiping computer screens with disinfectant," she said. "We ordered nearly 2,000 masks for employees."

The Yayuan Toy Factory, which makes plastic cars in the southeastern city of Yiwu, a hub for export manufacturers, still is shut down due to virus fears and the difficulty of finding employees, according to its owner, Cui Ting.

Cui said his workforce of 12 went home to Shanxi province in western China and Guizhou in the southeast for the holiday and have yet to return.

"We haven't resumed production yet, because I still worry about the infection risk due to asking my employees to travel," said Cui.

House for Sale (Tinian)

**Concrete house
1000 sq. meter lot
Located in Marpo Valley**

**Contact: Barbara Lee
(Saipan)
Cell: 287-7885**



CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
Attorney for Petitioner Wayne Brian K. Sanchez

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE) Civil Action
ESTATE OF) No. 20-0083T
EDWARD)
SABLAN) **NOTICE OF HEARING**
SAN) **AND NOTICE**
CHEZ,) **TO CREDITORS**
Deceased.)
) Date: March 19, 2020
) Time: 9:00 a.m.
) Associate Judge:
) Kenneth L. Govendo

TO: THE GENERAL PUBLIC, ANY HEIRS, CLAIMANTS, OR CREDITORS OF THE LATE EDWARD SABLAN SANCHEZ OR HIS ESTATE:

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Wayne Brian K. Sanchez has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to issue Letters of Administration for the Estate of Edward Sablan Sanchez, the deceased. The attorney for Petitioner is Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, whose address is Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950.

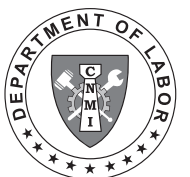
The hearing on the Petition is scheduled to be heard on the date and at the time set forth above at the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All interested persons or entities should appear at this hearing. Any and all persons, creditors, or entities having claims against the deceased or his Estate are hereby required by law to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim(s) will be barred. A copy of your claim should also be sent to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, at the address herein-above indicated.
Dated this 26th day of February, 2020.

/s/ Clerk of Court/ Deputy Clerk of Court



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Labor

CNMI OSHA Consultation
1338 Ascension Dr. | Capitol Hill
P.O. Box 10007 | Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: (670) 664-3156/7 | Fax: (670) 664-3158
Web: www.marianaslabor.net



U.S. Department of Labor Commemorates 50 years of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970

Signed into law by President Richard M. Nixon on December 29, 1970, the OSH Act was created "to assure safe and healthful working conditions for working men and women," laying the groundwork for the creation of OSHA the following spring. Following the establishment of the OSH Act, workplace fatalities were reduced approximately 65 percent.

"America's workplaces are safer and healthier thanks to the Occupational Safety and Health Act and the thousands of individuals at the Labor Department who have implemented the Act over the last 50 years," U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia said. "The OSH Act is a cornerstone of worker protection in our country, and thanks to OSHA's work, countless American workers have gotten home safely to their families each day."

Readers can subscribe to OSHA's bi-monthly QuickTakes newsletter for the latest news and information regarding OSHA's efforts to protect the American workforce.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to help ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing the standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov or contact your local CNMI OSHA Consultation Office today at (670) 664—3153/4/5/6/7.

The CNMI OSHA On-Site Consultation program, at the time of initial publication of this document 02/2020 is funded by a cooperative agreement for \$245,900 federal funds, which constitutes 100% of the program budget. 0% or \$0 of the program budget, is financed through non-governmental sources.

Nation

Trump gets desired Democratic foes, but Biden worries linger

WASHINGTON (AP)—While Super Tuesday left the Democrats with a pair of front-runners whom President Donald Trump believes he can define and defeat, there are still some private worries in the White House.

There is concern that the Democrats’ messy nomination contest may end up producing an emboldened

version of the very man who once worried Trump so much as a foe that it led to the president’s impeachment.

That would be Joe Biden.

Still, there was plenty for Trump to like in Tuesday’s 14-state round of voting that transformed the Democratic race into a delegate shootout between an avowed proponent of democratic socialism

(Bernie Sanders) and a longtime Washington insider (Biden). It banished from the race former New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg, whose endless millions had gotten under the president’s skin, and it pushed aside Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren, who



Trump

could have proved to be a formidable rhetorical challenger against Trump.

That sets up Trump to run for reelection on familiar territory and allows him to revive some of the same lines of attack that proved successful in 2016.

The public reaction from

Trump and his campaign on Wednesday was gleeful as Biden’s remarkable campaign comeback reset the Democratic nomination fight into a two-candidate contest with Sanders.

Those around the president have long asserted that Sanders, with his unapologetic support for “Medicare for All,” free college and other wish list items, is too liberal for most of the nation. They also believe Biden has lost a step and is saddled with a decadeslong Washington record and questions surrounding the conduct of his son Hunter.

treme positions of his rivals on health care.

Watching the results Tuesday night from the White House residence, Trump cheered the collapse of Bloomberg, who sank more than \$500 million of his own money into his campaign yet performed woefully the first day his name appeared on the ballot.

The president unleashed a series of tweets the next morning that belittled the Democratic field—including Warren, who was assessing whether to move forward—and he was so eager to talk about the race that he invited reporters to ask him about it during a White House meeting with airline executives.

“No questions about the election?” Trump asked before registering several hot takes that would not be out of place on the morning cable news shows he frequently watches.

Before Bloomberg dropped out Wednesday morning, Trump goaded the billionaire, who has promised to continue his free-spending anti-Trump effort on behalf of the eventual Democratic nominee.

Feds investigate nursing home as US death toll hits 11

SEATTLE (AP)—The U.S. death toll from the coronavirus climbed to 11 on Wednesday with a patient succumbing in California—the first reported fatality outside Washington state—as federal authorities announced an investigation of the Seattle-area nursing home where most of the victims were stricken.

Officials in California’s Placer County, near Sacramento, said an elderly person who tested positive after returning from a San Francisco-to-Mexico cruise had died. The victim had underlying health problems, authorities said.

California Gov. Gavin Newsom declared a statewide emergency. Washington and Florida had already declared emergencies.

Washington also announced another death, bringing its total to 10. Most of those who died were residents of Life Care Center, a nursing home in Kirkland, a suburb east of Seattle. At least 39 cases have been reported in the Seattle area, where researchers say the virus may have been circulating undetected for weeks.

Seema Verma, head of the federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said


the agency is sending inspectors to Life Care along with experts from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to figure out what happened and determine whether the nursing home followed guidelines for preventing infections.

Last April, the state fined Life Care \$67,000 over infection-control deficiencies following two flu outbreaks that affected 17 patients and staff. An unannounced follow-up inspection in June determined that Life Care had corrected the problems, Verma said.

Meanwhile, public of-


ficials in Washington came under pressure to take more aggressive steps against the outbreak, including closing schools and canceling large events. While the state and Seattle have declared emergencies, giving leaders broad powers to suspend activities, they have not issued any orders to do so.

“We have encouraged people who are responsible for large gatherings to give consideration whether it really makes sense to carry those on right now,” Gov. Jay Inslee said. “Right now, we are deferring to the judgment ... of these organizations.”



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-20-010

SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF POWER DISTRIBUTION ANNUAL MATERIALS

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply and Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials for Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, based on bids for “Commodity Groups”.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-20-010, Supply & Delivery of Power Distribution Annual Materials, Saipan, CNMI” to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 6, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. *An electronic copy of the entire submission is also required to be sent via email to CUC Procurement & Supply Division via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.*

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. The Bid bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. The award of a contract(s) is contingent upon the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission and the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Board of Director’s approval. The contract(s) will not be executed by CUC until such approval is provided.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 21, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org, Joseph Crisostomo, CUC Power Division, Purchasing Technician via email joseph.crisostomo@cucgov.org and Alfred Palattao, CUC Power Division, Engineer via email alfred.palattao@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO

Executive Director


MANNY BOYER SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC-IFB-20-012

SR-2 SEWER LIFT STATION REHABILITATION

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of construction of a new sewer lift station to replace the existing SR-2 sewer lift station; installation of new gravity sewer mains, manhole, force main from the new lift station to the nearest existing sewer force main, retaining wall, guard rail, installation of Owner-Furnished Contractor-Installed (OFC) submersible duplex pump and controller; construction of a new generator building and appurtenances; demolition of the entire existing generator buildings, accessories, appurtenances and existing minor structures. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the sewer system. CUC requires the Project to be completed in **270 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **February 20, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “CUC-IFB-20-012, SR-2 Sewer Lift Station Rehabilitation Project” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) March 10, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time.

Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier’s check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers’ questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI’s Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI’s Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor’s preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 24, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Nicolette Villagomez, CUC Water & Wastewater Engineer via email address nicolette.villagomez@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO

Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN

Purchasing Administrator

World

In Italy and beyond, virus outbreak reshapes work and play

WORLD BRIEFS

Iran says UN nuke watchdog requests must have legal basis
TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran says requests from the United Nations' nuclear watchdog for information and access to Iran's nuclear sites must have a legal basis, the semi-official ISNA news agency reported Wednesday. Behrouz Kamalvandi, spokesman for Iran's nuclear agency, was quoted by ISNA as saying: "Not every question and every access is up to the agency." He did not elaborate. Kamalvandi's comments came a day after a confidential report was distributed to member countries by the International Atomic Energy Agency. The IAEA report said Iran has nearly tripled its stockpile of enriched uranium since November in violation of its deal with world powers. The report also raised new questions about possible nuclear-related activities and undeclared nuclear material at three locations.


Hope for more survivors ebbs in Brazil area hit by mudslides
GUARUJA, Brazil (AP)—Standing amid debris where his house and repair shop once stood, Antônio Pereira Farias took stock of what little remained Wednesday. He saved his wife and son from a thunderous cascade of mud, he said, but his daughter and son-in-law were among those missing. The life of Pereira Farias, 70, is just one of many that torrential rains churned into upheaval early Tuesday when storms deluged the coast of Sao Paulo state.

He hadn't slept since, and his mind's disarray was reflected in the wreckage. Motorcycle parts lay beside soaked clothes and slabs of drywall, and it stank of mud and damp. "I lost my house, my daughter, which is what I loved the most in my life ...," he said, gasping, then summoned a means to continue. "I lost a pickup truck, a Volkswagen, all I had in my repair shop. It's all over. Everything I had, the water washed away."


PH police chief, 7 others injured in chopper crash
SAN PEDRO, Philippines (AP)—A helicopter carrying the Philippine national police chief and seven other people crashed after hitting a power cable on takeoff Thursday, slightly injuring him. Gen. Archie Francisco Gamboa and the others were pulled from the wreckage by police officers. He was injured in the right shoulder but flashed a thumbs-up and said, "I'm OK," while being wheeled to an ambulance that brought him to a hospital in metropolitan Manila. The police intelligence chief, chief comptroller and spokesman were also on board. They and the flight crew sustained injuries as well, but their conditions were not immediately released. The helicopter had been taking off from a police compound in a rural village in San Pedro city in Laguna province south of Manila after the group met with local police officials. The aircraft whipped up a thick cloud of dust as it took off, hit a power cable then crashed with a loud thud on a road near houses, witness Glenda Garcia told The Associated Press.

ROME (AP)—Italy closed all schools and universities and barred fans from all sporting events for the next few weeks, as governments trying to curb the spread of the coronavirus around the world resorted to increasingly sweeping measures that transformed the way people work, shop, pray and amuse themselves. With the virus present in more than 80 countries, Saudi Arabia barred citizens from making the Muslim pilgrimage to Mecca, Iran canceled Friday prayers for a second week, and leader after leader pleaded with citizens to put an end to that traditional symbol of mutual trust, the handshake. The Italian government decreed that soccer games and other sporting events will take place without spectators until at least April 3. Italy is the epicenter of Europe's coronavirus outbreak. More than 3,000 have been infected and at least 107 have died, the most of any country outside China, where the illness began. Italy also closed schools for 8.4 million students through March 15, after at least four other countries—Japan, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon and Iraq—took similar action. "I know it's a decision with an impact. As education minister, I obviously want my students back in school as soon as possible," said Education Minister Lucia Azzolina. Italy, Iran and South Korea confronted fast-growing clusters of the disease that accounted for about 80% of new cases outside China, according to the World Health Organization. In all, more than 95,000 people have contracted the virus worldwide, with more than 3,200 deaths. In the United States, the death toll reached 11. Iran reported 92 deaths among its more than 2,900 cases, though many fear the outbreak is far bigger. Among the ill are dozens of members of the government. The Islamic republic canceled Friday prayers to avoid public gatherings. "The virus has no wings to fly," said Health Ministry spokesman Kianoush Jahanpour. "We are the ones who transfer it to each other." WHO said about 3.4% of people infected with the COVID-19 virus globally have died, making it more lethal than the common flu. But that figure was met with skepticism, with scientists noting that large numbers of mild cases have probably gone undetected or unreported. A study last week in the New England Journal of Medicine of data from more than 30 Chinese provinces estimated the death rate at 1.4%.

China's virus slowdown offers hope for global containment
The slowdown in coronavirus cases out of China offers a sliver of hope that the global outbreak can be controlled, but whether that can happen anytime soon without drastic measures remains to be seen, public health authorities say. With China accounting for the overwhelming majority of the world's 94,000 infections and 3,200 deaths since the virus first surfaced there in late December, it's hard to see the country as a success story. But some experts believe the easing of the crisis—there are now more new cases being reported outside China than inside it—suggests containment is possible. World Health Organization outbreak expert Maria Van Kerkhove, who recently traveled to China as part of a team from the U.N. health agency, said the international experts noted a drop in cases there since the end of January. "We scrutinized this data and we believe this decline is real," she said, adding that the extraordinary measures undertaken in China—including the unprecedented lockdown of more than 60 million people—had a significant role in changing the direction of the outbreak. (AP)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-20-014

LEASE OF OFFICE AND OPERATIONS SUPPORT FACILITY FOR CUC ROTA ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the lease of a suitable office and operations support facility for the Headquarters of CUC's Administration and Operations on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must comply with American Disabilities Act (ADA), DPW, OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The IFB package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration with CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package will be emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered. For registration inquiries, please email Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-20-014, Lease of Office and Operations support facility for CUC Rota Administration and Operation." to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on March 23, 2020** at at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.


This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 7, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to William Gilmore, CUC Deputy Director via email address william.gilmore@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior christie.sablan@cucgov.org.


CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY BOYER SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-19-028, REV.1

REPLACEMENT OF SADOG TASI WWTP CLARIFIER

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Replacement of Sadog Tasi Clarifier Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The intent of the contract is for the Contractor to provide all labor, equipment, supplies and materials necessary to complete the scope of work which consists of installation of a new circular clarifier mechanism and replacement or repair of the effluent launder box; removal of the old circular clarifier mechanism and sections of the effluent launder box; replacement of the RFP weirs and scum baffle, installation of a new outer scum baffle; installation of new area lighting, wires, and conduit, and disconnect boxes; installation of a new process water spray system for foam control. The work shall include the dewatering and cleaning of aeration basin #3 and the clarifier; routing process flow and maintaining conditions during the construction period; and returning process flow from the aeration basin to the clarifier. The work shall be completed with minimal disruption to the daily operation of the Sadog Tasi Waste Water Treatment Plant. CUC requires the Project to be completed in 365 calendar days from date of award of contract.

The project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from USEPA.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **\$100.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by site visits will be held on **March 12, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) Original and Five (5) Hard Copies of the bid MUST be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-19-028, Rev.1 Replacement of the Sadog Tasi Clarifier" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) April 2, 2020**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract. All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on March 16, 2020** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, CUC P&S, Purchasing Technician, Senior via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
AUTHORITY,)

Plaintiff,)
v.)
ERIC B. ATALIG and)
LOURDES F.)
ATALIG,)

Defendants.)

**CIVIL ACTION
NO. 11-0004**

**NOTICE OF
AUCTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Tract No. 21769-R2-5 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

Tract No. 21769-R2-9 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

Tract No. 21769-R2-10 (formerly part of Tract 21769-R2, which was part of Tract 21769, AH 72 and also known as Lot 352 R 01), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3007/95, the original of which was recorded on April 5, 1995, as Document No. 95-0841 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office.

The foregoing properties contain a total area of 2,618 square meters, more or less. This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **January 12, 2017**, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Eric B. Atalig and Lourdes F. Atalig.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:
1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Eric B. Atalig and Lourdes F. Atalig the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/
Charity R. Hodson, F0487

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK Saipan, MP 96950
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charity@chodsonlaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
AUTHORITY,)

Plaintiff,)
v.)
THE ESTATE OF HERMAN)
T. PALACIOS and THE)
ESTATE OF JOYCELYN)
C. PALACIOS,)

Defendants.)

**CIVIL ACTION
NO. 12-0004**

**NOTICE OF
AUCTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Lot No. 001 I 13, containing an area of 1,529 square meters, more or less, as described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 I00, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 712, on the 1st day of March 1971, including all existing and future improvements on the said property;

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **January 7, 2019**, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;

b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and

c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 502607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendants Estate of Herman T. Palacios and Estate of Joycelyn C. Palacios to the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Charity R. Hodson, F0487
Attorney for Plaintiff

CHARITY R. HODSON (F0487)
ATTORNEY AT LAW
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 502607 CK Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-1615
Facsimile: (670) 234-5749
charity@chodsonlaw.com

Attorney for Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
AUTHORITY,)

Plaintiff,)
v.)
AMBROSE BENNETT,)
individually and dba)
LIL & BRO'S TRIKE)
DEALERSHIP & RENTALS,)
and JUAN T. LIZAMA,)

Defendants.)

**CIVIL ACTION
NO. 16-0236**

**NOTICE OF
AUCTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the fee simple title to the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.** at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

Lot No. 031 A 01, containing an area of 1,186 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 031 A 00 dated 20 February 1985, as File No. 85-0423.

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on **July 23, 2018**, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth Development Authority from Defendants Ambrose Bennett, individual and dba Lil and Bro's Trike Dealership & Rentals, and Juan T. Lizama.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Charity R. Hodson, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya; through mail with the address of P.O. Box 02607, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to charity@chodsonlaw.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interest of Defendant Juan T. Lizama to the property is being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Charity R. Hodson, F0487
Attorney for Plaintiff

Richard C. Miller, NMI Bar No. F0458
Miller Law Office, LLC
2nd Fl., Macararas Bldg., Garapan
PMB 372, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 670 233-0990 | Fax: 670 233-5262
Email: millercnmilaw@protonmail.com
Attorney for Commonwealth Development Authority

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

COMMONWEALTH)
DEVELOPMENT)
9AUTHORITY,)

Plaintiff,)
v.)
ESTATE OF)
VICENTE C. CASTRO,)
et al.,)

Defendants.)

**CIVIL ACTION
NO. 12-0078**

**NOTICE OF
AUCTION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Commonwealth Development Authority, or its designee, will sell the remaining leasehold interest in the following real property at public auction to the highest bidder, on **April 14, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.**, at the Commonwealth Development Authority Conference Room located in Oleai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

55-year leasehold interest, dated December 11, 1991, in:

Part of E.A. 220, situated in Talofoto area, Saipan, Mariana Islands, and further described as follows:

Beginning at a Corner 1 which is North 76-00-17 W, a distance of 1236.64 meters from a triangulation station "CAMP";

Thence S 02° 03' 37" E, 105.42 meters to Corner 2;
Thence S 82° 25' 44" E, 225.25 meters to Corner 3;
27Thence S 02° 05' 45" W, 79.30 meters to Corner 4;
Thence S 68° 36' 09" E, 15.85 meters to Corner 5;
Thence N 42° 34' 32" E, 347.07 meters to Corner 6;
Thence N 88° 31' 25" W, 604.33 meters to Corner 1;
the point of beginning.

Containing an area of 90,712.0 square meters, more or less, and being situated on land Square 6, Section 2, Units 1, m, and n, as shown in APW0 Drawing No. 11406 on file and with the Clerk of Courts, Saipan District.

This Notice of Auction is issued pursuant to the Writ of Execution entered in this action on April 19, 2016, in order to satisfy the amount adjudged due to Plaintiff Commonwealth

Development Authority from Defendant Pan-Marikai Development Corporation.

The terms and conditions of sale are as follows:

1. **Public Sale:** The auction shall be open to the general public.

2. **With Reserve:** The auction sale shall be held with reserve.

3. **Rights and Duties of Auctioneer:** Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:

a. To withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or bid for such property is accepted;
b. To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c. To reject any and all bids.

4. **Bids:** Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person to Miller Law Office, LLC, through mail with the address of PMB 372, P.O. Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950; or through electronic mail to millercnmilaw@protonmail.com.

5. **Deposit and Payment:** A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten calendar (10) days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check; payments may also be made by credit card with either Visa or Mastercard only, subject to a two percent (2%) processing fee. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property, which shall revert to the Commonwealth Development Authority.

6. **Change of Terms:** The auctioneer and the Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by the constructive notice.

7. **Inspection and No Warranty:** Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Commonwealth Development Authority for scheduled viewing and inspection times. The interests of Defendant Pan-Marikai Development Corporation in the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Dated this 30th day of January, 2020.

/s/ Miller Law Office, LLC
by Richard C. Miller, Esq.

Off the Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Beehive, 8-feet long, discovered in apartment ceiling

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—An animal control company in Virginia said it's removed an 8-foot-long beehive from someone's apartment. Virginia Wildlife Management and Control said in a statement that they removed the hive from the ceiling of a living room in Richmond on Monday. The space was in between tenants at the time. The company said the hive produced about 80 to 100 pounds of honey, although only about 15 to 20 pounds was able to be salvaged. Rich Perry, owner of the wildlife control company, told The Charlotte Observer that the hive was big enough to support 100,000 to 150,000 bees. But he said it wasn't fully occupied Perry said it was extremely unusual to find such a large hive inside a building. He said the hive of Italian bees was likely to be at least 2 years old. He said the bees probably got in through holes in the siding and found a home between rafters and sheet rock. The company said it has a "no kill" policy with bees. But he said the company could not find the queen after an extensive search and that the hive could not be saved.

After 2 weeks of pounding, Leaning Tower of Dallas is down

DALLAS (AP)—The Leaning Tower of Dallas, the nearly iconic remnant of a high-rise building implosion gone awry, finally collapsed in a cloud of dust Monday after two weeks of being whacked with a head-ache ball. The tower collapsed about 3:15 p.m. after a few last whacks with a wrecking ball swung by a high-rise crane. No injuries were reported. The tower was the core of an 11-story building that was imploded with explosives on Feb. 16. The 11 floors surrounding the core duly collapsed, but the solid concrete core containing the stairway and elevator shafts remained standing at an angle. The demolition contractor has been whacking away at it ever since with a 5,600-pound wrecking ball. A spokeswoman for De La Vega Development, which is redeveloping the site, had said immediately after the implosion that the tower's demolition could take up to four days. It ended up taking almost four times that amount of time before it was taken down. In the meantime, the tower drew hundreds of people who took often-whimsical photographs of themselves with the tower in the background.

Accent mark in official Santa Fe seal in wrong spot

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—An accent mark on the official seal of the capital city of the nation's most Hispanic state is in the wrong spot. The misplaced accent mark at the top of the city of Santa Fe, New Mexico's website was recently spotted by a reporter who uses an accent in his name, the Santa Fe New Mexican reports. On the website, the seal uses the official's name of the city: La Villa Real de la Santa Fé de San Francisco de Asis, or Santa Fe for short. But the seal on the city's website puts the accent mark over the first "s" in Asis instead of over the "i." Even Mayor Alan Webber, who is originally from St. Louis, knows the accent mark over the "s" is no bueno. "It is always over a vowel; it is never over a consonant," Webber said. "Yes, I learned that from my Spanish teacher." Santa Fe is one of the oldest continual settlements in the U.S. and has a long history with Hispanics.

LSU student charged with riding ATV on stadium field

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—A Louisiana State University student and fraternity brother was charged Thursday with breaking into the college's under-construction football stadium and riding a four-wheeler around inside. Clayton Fleetwood, of New Jersey, is accused of entering Tiger stadium late at night on Jan. 21 and Feb. 8, according to university police. Investigators say the 19-year-old and another unidentified suspect were captured on stadium security cameras driving a Kawasaki Mule all-terrain vehicle around the field. The ATV had been parked inside the stadium at the time, according to an arrest report obtained by news outlets. Police said they were alerted to the joyrides through anonymous callers, then matched security video with Fleetwood's student ID card. LSU investigators noted that work was being done on the field at the time to install a new drainage system, and contractors have said damages to the field caused by the ATV tracks could cost up to \$8,000 to repair, news outlets reported. Fleetwood was booked into the East Baton Rouge Parish Prison on charges of simple burglary, criminal trespassing and unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. Police haven't said whether the second person seen in the videos will also face charges.

Life & Style

James Bond film release pushed back 7 months due to virus

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The release of the James Bond film “No Time To Die” has been pushed back several months because of global concerns about coronavirus.

MGM, Universal and producers Michael G. Wilson and Barbara Broccoli announced on Twitter Wednesday that the film would be pushed back from its April release to November 2020.

The announcement cited consideration of the global theatrical marketplace in the decision to delay the release of the film. “No Time To Die” will now hit theaters in the U.K. on Nov. 12 and world-wide on Nov. 25.

The Bond films make a significant portion of their profits from international markets. The last film, “Spectre,” made over \$679 million from overseas theaters in 2015 with over



This is a Wednesday, Oct. 28, 2015 file photo of actor Daniel Craig poses for the media as he arrives for the German premiere of the James Bond movie ‘Spectre’ in Berlin, Germany. AP

\$84 million of that total coming from China.

Concerns had already been brewing around the imminent release and the global outbreak. Publicity plans in

China, Japan and South Korea had previously been canceled. And on Monday, the popular James Bond fan site MI6-HQ published an open letter to the producers urging them to de-

lay the film’s rollout. “It is time to put public health above marketing release schedules and the cost of canceling publicity events,” the letter said.

Trebek reaches 1-year mark in cancer fight with hope, candor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Alex Trebek marked his one-year battle against pancreatic cancer with candor about how hard it’s been and a vow to keep going.

“I’d be lying if I said the journey had been an easy one. There have been some good days, but a lot of not-so-good days,” the long-time “Jeopardy!” host said in a video message posted online Wednesday. He’s joked with friends that “the cancer won’t kill me, the chemo treatments

Kim Kardashian West, former prisoners visit White House

WASHINGTON (AP)—Kim Kardashian West visited the White House on Wednesday along with three women who had their sentences commuted by President Donald Trump last month, allowing them early release from federal prison.

Kardashian West tweeted that she and the women planned to “discuss more change that our justice system desperately needs!”

The three women—Tynice Nichole Hall, Crystal Munoz and Judith Negron—were nonviolent federal offenders serving long sentences. All had their cases championed by Alice Johnson, a Tennessee grandmother convicted on felony drug and money laundering charges in 1996. Johnson was released from prison in June 2018 after Kardashian West asked Trump to grant her clemency.

will,” Trebek said.

Moments of pain and attacks of “great depression” caused him to wonder if he could continue the fight, he said.

“But I brushed that aside quickly, because that would

have been a massive betrayal, a betrayal of my wife and soul mate Jean, who has given her all to help me survive,” Trebek said. “It would have been a betrayal of other cancer patients who have looked to me as an

inspiration, and a cheerleader of sorts, for the value of living and hope. And it would certainly have been a betrayal of my faith in God and the millions of prayers that have been said on my behalf.”

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We the family of our Beloved

Manasses Sablan Borja

well known as “Manny”

Wish to express our deepest and sincere gratitude to all our families, relatives and friends for your thoughtful prayers, words of wisdom and comforts, unselfish personal assistance and generosity you all have extended to us during our most painful time of sorrows. The many acts of love and kindness you have given us will always be cherished and remembered and has continued to give us strength to get through each day

We are extending our heartfelt appreciation to Kristo Rai Church, Mount Carmel Cathedral, Fr. Albert Pellazar, OAR for presiding the Mass of the Christian Burial, our techa Rhonda Nogis, Marcy Cepeda, Santo Nino Group for leading the holy rosary, San Jose Choir for beautiful chanting melody, Borja Funeral Homes for their services, and Charing's Catering services.

We shall be forever grateful to all who have helped us in one way or another, your presence during the daily masses, Rosary and Mass of the Christian Burial, your generous heart for all the donations received in kind, beautiful flowers, precious gifts and monetary.

Thank you, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Salamat po.
Corazon Borja & Family

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



Aunt determines to keep girl safe from abusive relatives

DEAR ABBY: One of my husband’s sisters has eight kids, ranging from 15 months to 20 years old. She hasn’t taken care of any of them for more than three years. They never saw a doctor, they didn’t have food in the house, and she was abusive.

When she lost custody, the ones without dads in the picture went to live with another one of my husband’s sisters. Since then, three of the children she was caring for went into foster care. My husband and I visit them regularly, but no one else in the family has seen them at all.

Two of the kids are now in our care. They have been living with us for six months. The rest of his family hasn’t visited them either. I also have a 15-month-old son, who wouldn’t know any of them if they did come by, because they never do.

Last month, my husband’s family invited us over. I didn’t want to go and didn’t want my son or 6-year-old niece to go either. My husband thinks they have a “right” to see their family. I don’t think they should be around family who can’t be bothered to see them regularly.

I also think my niece shouldn’t have to be around an aunt who abused and neglected her. She’s only now starting to realize that’s not normal or OK. My nephew is 15, he knows what happened wasn’t right and has chosen to stay away from his aunt since moving out.

Am I wrong to keep my niece from her family? She’s not old enough to decide, but I think at this point it would do more harm than good.

CONFLICTED IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR CONFLICTED: At this point, you are that child’s responsible adult (parent). If you feel it would be detrimental for her to be forced into contact with her abuser, stand your ground.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I’m a 36-year-old female, smart, well-educated, attractive, successful, and a fantastic mom and partner. My problem is, I can’t stop stalking my boyfriend’s ex on social media. It seems like she can’t let go. She constantly posts comments about their previous relationship, about his family and still loving them, and she’s also close friends with my boyfriend’s sister.

I don’t know why I constantly compare myself to her. I know what I bring to the table. Why am I so threatened and concerned by this gal? She’s younger than I am and posts all her feelings onto the social media world, even things about my boyfriend, some of which have included remarks about me.

Why can’t I stop being so nosy? I keep telling myself the past doesn’t matter, he’s with me now, don’t worry about her view from the sidelines, etc. But I’m beginning to feel like something is wrong with ME. Help, please.

STALKER IN TEXAS

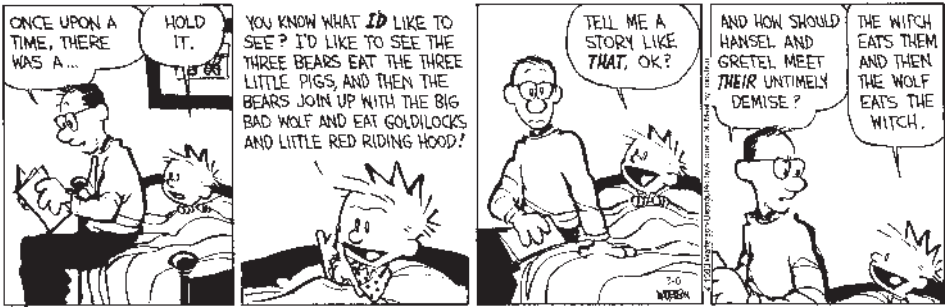
DEAR STALKER: You remind me of a celebrity who can’t tear herself away from the tabloids, regardless of how cruel or off-base they are. The only thing wrong with you is you are allowing your insecurity to overtake you. As you stated, your partner is with you now. If he had any interest in his ex, that wouldn’t be the case. Because you can’t seem to pull yourself away from the internet, consider “detoxing” by scheduling some conversations with a licensed mental health professional.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: “Abby’s Favorite Recipes” and “More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



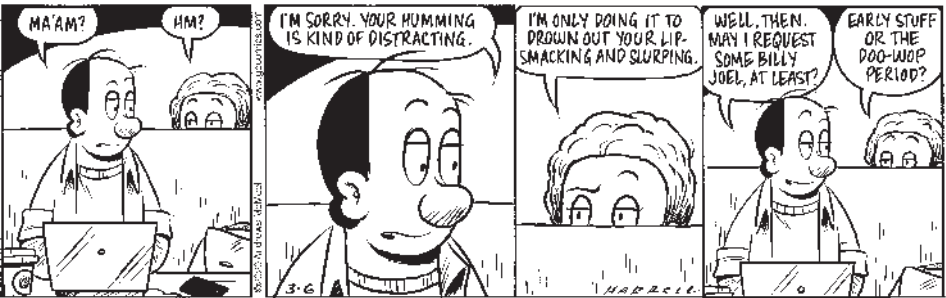
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Hit with a ray
4 "Now, where — I?"
7 Links
12 Mil.
13 morale booster
14 Lab eggs
15 "Incidentally," in a text
16 Aerobic fundraiser
18 Anger
19 Incline
20 Par
22 Poem of praise
23 Regarding
27 Possess
29 No-elevator multistory building
31 Tabriz native
34 Entices
35 Type of clinic
37 Zodiac animal
38 Makes a choice

DOWN

1 Maestro
2 Houston player
3 "— to the people!"
4 Amazes
5 Arthurian isle
6 Leafy lunch
7 Unruly kid
8 Granola grain
9 To the — degree
10 God, to Galileo
11 Junior
17 Recognized
21 Monastery dwellers
23 Texas landmark
24 Enjoy the Alps
25 Boy king
26 Chances, for short
28 Nintendo console
30 Lawyers' gp.
31 — Jima
32 Knock
33 PC key
36 Lunch hour
37 Ruling group
40 Under — (hidden)
42 Twilight, poetically
43 Temple leader
44 Decree
45 "Holy cow!"
46 Gaelic
48 Director
49 Rocker
50 "7 Faces of Dr. —"
51 Metric distances (Abbr.)

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-6

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Shaquille O'Neal, 48; Connie Britton, 53; D.L. Hughley, 57; Rob Reiner, 73.

Happy Birthday: An open mind will be privy to information that sets the foundation for what's to come. Your keen intuition and your desire to be successful will be the driving forces behind your accomplishments. Change is available, but how you go about getting what you want will be what determines how far you get. Don't let jealousy, stubbornness or emotions hold you back. Your numbers are 7, 19, 23, 30, 32, 44, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be prepared for ups and downs. Remain unbiased and passive when dealing with friends or relatives. Controversial subjects will lead to feuds. A spa day, romantic getaway or reading a good book will help you put things into perspective. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Make a move for the right reason. Don't let emotions cloud your vision. Look over your plans, and change whatever needs to be improved in order to keep moving forward. An unwanted change will turn out to be better than anticipated. **

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Observe someone with more experience, and you'll pick up valuable information that can help you advance. If you aren't sure about getting involved in something or about a change at home, take a pass. Communication will be your link to affirmative action. ****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't run from change. Embrace an offer, and explore the possibilities. Getting out and participat-

ing in functions or events that are meaningful will lead to interesting connections. Romance is in the stars and will enhance your personal life. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don't let your emotions stand between you and getting what you want. If someone upsets you, don't retaliate. Concentrate on making money and getting work out of the way, not making expensive purchases to buy someone's favor or to fight depression. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Look out for your interests, do what pleases you and bring about the changes that will improve your life moving forward. Get involved in events with people who offer knowledge, insight and possibilities. Personal and physical transformations are favored. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Anger is a waste of time. Let your success be your revenge, and forge ahead with confidence. It's time to do things differently and to stop letting others take advantage of you. Make decisions that will put your needs first. ****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotions will surface. Find a way to channel excess energy into something positive. Honing skills, getting into tiptop shape and living a healthier lifestyle will help build strength, courage and a better future. Don't give in to someone who has poor judgment. **

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Don't let the changes others make influence you to follow suit. Consider what's best for you, not what will make someone else hap-

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY
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py. A positive change is one that improves your life; don't make a backward or lateral move. **

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take control, and follow through with your thoughts and actions. Your timing will be impeccable. Start a meaningful project. Deals can be put in place if you stand by your convictions. A positive personal change will improve your home life. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Refuse to fold under pressure. Don't agree to something that doesn't feel right or that puts a dent in a project you can call your own. Pay proper attention to the way you present and take care of yourself. Avoid stressful situations. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You will achieve more if you refuse to let others interfere. Put your energy where it counts. Refuse to let someone dictate where or how you spend your time. Use your charm and insight to override interference. ***

Birthday Baby: You are enthusiastic, original and entertaining. You are ambitious and persuasive. Visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

3/06

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4 6 9 1 5 3 8 2 7
2 8 7 9 4 6 5 3 1
5 1 3 7 8 2 6 4 9
1 2 6 3 9 4 7 5 8
8 7 4 2 1 5 3 9 6
3 9 5 8 6 7 2 1 4
6 3 1 5 7 9 4 8 2
7 5 8 4 2 1 9 6 3
9 4 2 6 3 8 1 7 5

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

OFFICE DEPOT Solution: 10 letters

J N H O J S T O R A G E N A A
A T T T E R Y M O F F I T T C
P D I C F O R M S C V O S I O
A I M E T F E A H E D L E V B
N V S R G N T K D O P I A U
O A P I N N T L H O O E R N L
S D Y D I A A A H T F N A O K
L N R N K G L C N F S I T R
E G R A I E S F O I R D A O
N I E R V O J U L R C E I R W
E A G G T E N E H P E T S E T
C P K K R A D N F J M S B P E
U M C R H L U T O A A O U A N
R A I O L O W E R O X P S P G
B C M A R K E R S R E I L F Y

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Ativa, Back to School, Boca, Bruce Nelson, Bulk, Campaign, David, Devard, Direct, Fax, Filers, Forms, Fuente, Gannfors, Gerry P. Smith, Grand, Japan, Jerri, Joe, John, Kevin, Lower, Mail, Markers, Mick, Moffitt, Mohan, Network, OfficeMax, Paper, Pens, Posters, Print, Raton, Slattery, Stephen, Storage, Subsidiaries, Todd Hale, Toy, TUL, Viking

Yesterday's Answer: Eligible

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand. Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6483.

Doncic breaks career triple-double record



DALLAS (AP)—Luka Doncic scored 30 points and broke Dallas' career triple-double record with his 22nd, helping the Mavericks hold off the New Orleans Pelicans 127-123 in overtime Wednesday night.

Doncic added 17 rebounds and 10 assists, and Kristaps Porzingis had 34 points and 12 rebounds in the nationally televised matchup between young stars Doncic and Zion Williamson. Williamson scored 21 points in 35 minutes in the first back-to-back of his NBA career.

Doncic broke Jason Kidd's record for triple-doubles just five days after his 21st birthday.

Neither team led by more than three points throughout the fourth quarter or overtime until Doncic fed Porzingis for a dunk with 49 seconds left to give Dallas a four-point lead. Doncic had hit a 3 to snap a 118-118 tie with 1:10 to play.

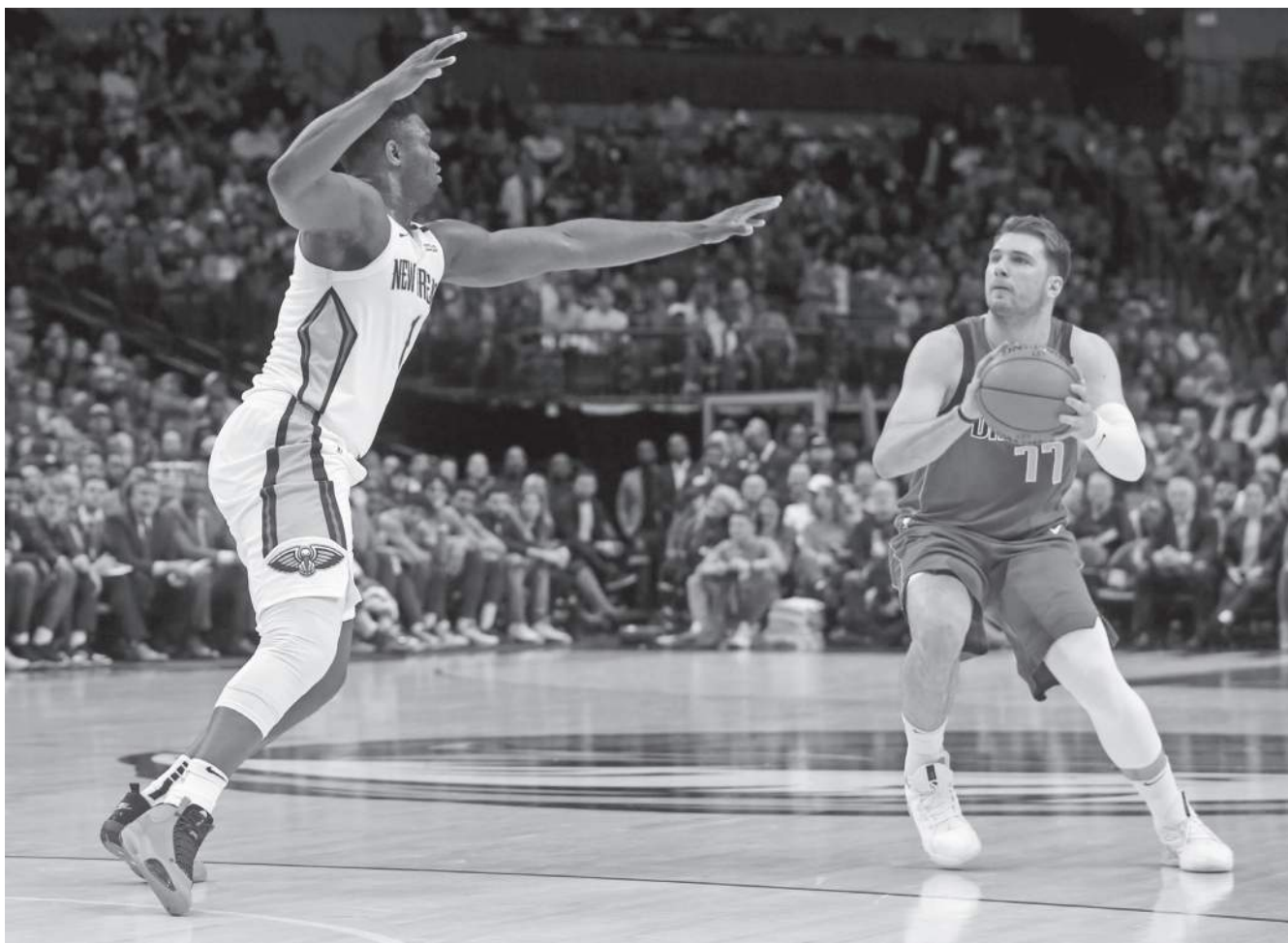
Williamson held up well in his first back-to-back since making his NBA debut Jan. 22. He has scored double figures in all 16 games he's played in and has 20 points or more in his last 13.

Brandon Ingram led New Orleans with 27 points, but fouled out in overtime. Lonzo Ball added 25.

Bucks 119, Pacers 100

In Milwaukee, Giannis Antetokounmpo had 29 points, 12 rebounds and six assists and the Bucks recovered after squandering an early 22-point lead to rout Indiana.

The Bucks bounced back from a 105-89 loss at Miami in which they posted their lowest point total of the season. An NBA-best 53-9, Milwaukee hasn't lost back-to-back games all season.



Dallas Mavericks guard Luka Doncic (77) prepares to shoot as New Orleans Pelicans forward Zion Williamson defends during the first half of an NBA game in Dallas, Wednesday, March 4, 2020. AP

Indiana had a four-game winning streak snapped as it fell into a tie with Philadelphia for fifth place in the Eastern Conference standings. The Pacers also lost guard Malcolm Brogdon to a sore left hip in the second quarter.

The Pacers were without Victor Oladipo for the second straight game because of a sore right knee. Milwaukee was missing reserve guards George Hill (groin contusion) and Kyle Korver (back soreness).

Khris Middleton had 20 points for Milwaukee.

Heat 116, Magic 113

In Miami, Duncan Robinson

scored 27 points, all of them coming from beyond the arc, and the Heat hit a franchise-record 22 3-pointers to beat Orlando.

Goran Dragic scored 25 points and added nine assists, Kelly Olynyk scored 16 on a perfect shooting night and Jimmy Butler finished with 12 points, eight assists and seven rebounds. Miami won four straight.

The previous record for Heat 3-pointers was 21, set April 5, 2017, at Charlotte. The 22 3-pointers made also tied the most allowed in a game by Orlando.

Terrence Ross scored 35 and hit a season-high eight 3-pointers for the Magic.

Celtics 112, Cavaliers 106

In Cleveland, Jayson Tatum scored 32 points and Boston beat the Cavaliers in a matchup of short-handed teams.

The Celtics were missing starters Kemba Walker, Jaylen Brown and Gordon Hayward, and the Cavaliers played without starters Andre Drummond and rookie Darius Garland. Cavaliers rookie swingman Kevin Porter Jr. left the game in the first half with a head injury and didn't return.

Cleveland rookie Collin Sexton scored a career-high 41 points, making 17 of 29 shots from the field. His previous career high was 32 against Utah.

Jazz 112, Knicks 104

In New York, Donovan Mitchell and Bojan Bogdanovic each scored 23 points and Utah beat the Knicks.

Rudy Gobert had 18 points and 14 rebounds for the Jazz. They won their third straight against a team well below .500 from the Eastern Conference.

Julius Randle had 32 points and 11 rebounds for New York.

Spike Lee was not in his seats, a day after vowing to attend no more Knicks home games this season after arguing with security guards who told him Monday he had to use a different entrance to reach his courtside spot.

Thunder 114, Pistons 107

In Detroit, Danilo Gallinari made a 3-pointer in the final minute and Oklahoma City beat the Pistons after blowing a 16-point second-half lead.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 27 points for Oklahoma City. The Thunder had lost their previous two games, not scoring more than 94 points in either.

Christian Wood scored a career-high 29 points for Detroit.

Grizzlies 118, Nets 79

In New York, Josh Jackson scored 19 points and Memphis ran away from Brooklyn.

Tyus Jones added 18 points to help Memphis win its third in a row. Ja Morant scored 15 points. Taurean Prince had 15 points for Brooklyn.

Timberwolves 115, Bulls 108

In Minneapolis, Malik Beasley scored 24 points, D'Angelo Russell added 19 and Minnesota beat Chicago to win both games of a back-to-back for the first time this season.

Coby White led Chicago with 26 points.

Trail Blazers 125, Wizards 104

In Portland, Damian Lillard had 22 points in his return from a groin injury and Carmelo Anthony scored 25 as the Trail Blazers beat Washington.

Hassan Whiteside finished with 24 points, 16 rebounds and four blocks for Portland. CJ McCollum, like Lillard, had 22 points and five assists.

It was Lillard's first game in three weeks after missing six with a groin strain.

Wizards guard Bradley Beal, who began the day as the NBA's second-leading scorer, had 29 points on 10-for-29 shooting (35%) from the field.

Bay Hill has strongest field since death of Palmer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—So much for the notion the Arnold Palmer Invitational wouldn't be as attractive when its namesake was no longer around.

Rory McIlroy, Brooks Koepka, Adam Scott and a host of other top players at Bay Hill this week give the tournament its strongest field since Palmer died in September 2016.

The condition of the course is good as ever. Florida in March has warmth in the air and the increasing buzz that the Masters is right around the corner.

And it's still Arnie's place. "The legacy of my grandfather, it just doesn't go away," Sam Saunders said Wednesday.

day. "And he's not here to shake hands with the players and see them, but the impact ... they feel it. They know how important this event is."

Tiger Woods chose not to play as he picks his tournaments more sparingly because of a fused lower spine. He has played Bay Hill just once—a tie for fifth in 2018—since winning for the eighth time in 2013.

Even so, the Arnold Palmer Invitational is more than holding its own against a schedule that features two World Golf Championships and The Players Championship in the weeks leading to Augusta National.

"It's very, very hard to pick and choose right now because this is such a strong part of the year," Graeme McDowell said.

McDowell regrets going to a World Golf Championship in Mexico City, mainly because he didn't get much out of the high altitude with his low ball flight.

There was a time when players never would have considered skipping a World Golf Championship with its big purse (\$10.5 million) and small field with no cut. Now it's getting harder to distinguish.

Bay Hill has a \$9.3 million purse, a 120-man field

(with a cut) and strong world ranking points. Ditto for the Genesis Invitational at Riviera last month, which has the same elevated status with a big purse, smaller field and ranking points that are among the highest for regular tour events.

The other tournament in that elevated category, the Memorial, has been among the strongest for years.

It's a question whether they have become stronger with the added perks, or if the World Golf Championships are not revered as much as they were when they began in 1999. It could be a little of both.

Scott said so much has changed in 20 years. The tour now has 10 tournaments outside the U.S.—the U.K., Can-

ada, Japan, China, South Korea, Bermuda, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic and two in Mexico. When the World Golf Championships began, the only events outside the U.S. on the PGA Tour schedule were two in Canada, the British Open and Spain.

"It was much harder to get the world's top players together," Scott said. "Most of the world's top players play on the PGA Tour as a PGA Tour member now."

In 1999, the World Golf Championships, the Tour Championship and The Players Championship had the largest purses at \$5 million. The largest purse for a regular PGA Tour event was \$3 million.

Bay Hill, Memorial and Riviera now have \$9.3 million purses, a little more than \$1 million less than the

WGCs and about \$2 million to \$3 million less than the majors. The Players Championship has gone up to \$15 million this year.

"They were significantly more money," Scott said of the WGCs. "Now everything is a lot of money."

So many tournaments. So much more money. So many options.

Koepka skipped the WGC in Mexico City and is playing five straight events, including the Valspar Championship. Dustin Johnson was in Mexico and has taken two weeks off before going to The Players, Valspar and the Match Play. Justin Thomas has skipped the last two weeks and will play the next three. Jon Rahm played four in a row through Mexico and then took two weeks off.



Despite virus, IOC unwavering on Olympics starting in July



LAUSANNE, Switzerland—

Despite world-wide concern and speculation about whether the fast-spreading virus outbreak will affect the Tokyo Olympics, the IOC's leadership is not joining in the debate.

"Neither the word cancellation nor the word postponement was even mentioned," International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach told a news conference Wednesday about the second day of executive board meeting in Lausanne, Switzerland.

Bach sought to project calm assurance after holding a conference call with local organizers. In Tokyo, officials then briefed local media, some of whom wore protective masks.

Asked how he could be so confident the July 24-Aug. 9 Olympics will go ahead as scheduled, Bach replied: "Because we talk to the experts."

"We are a sports organization and we follow the advice of the World Health Organization," Bach said, referring to the United Nations agency based around 60 kilometers (40 miles) away in Geneva.

The coronavirus that emerged in China late last year had infected more than 90,000 people globally by Wednesday and caused over 3,100 deaths. Serious outbreaks have been experienced in Iran and Italy.

Federal authorities in the IOC's home country Switzerland, which shares a border with Italy, have banned public gatherings of 1,000 people until mid-March to help contain the virus spreading.

Around 100 people were in a conference room at IOC headquarters to hear Bach use broadly similar answers to bat away virus questions from different angles.

"I will not add fuel to the flame of speculation," Bach said when asked about deadline for deciding whether to postpone the Tokyo Games.



International Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach from Germany speaks during a press conference after the executive board meeting of the IOC at the Olympic House, in Lausanne, Switzerland, Wednesday, March 4, 2020.

Asked if the WHO declaring a pandemic would change the IOC's position, Bach said: "I will not take part in any way of such kind of mere speculations."

Bach said he took confidence from having met the WHO's director general and other leading officials last Friday. A task force of officials from the WHO, IOC and Japanese sports and public officials has also been working together for around three weeks.

The virus has affected qualifying competitions for many of the 33 sports on Tokyo's medal program, which some postponed, venues changed, and travel issues for athletes from China and elsewhere.

"This is challenging, yes," Bach acknowledged, "but I must also say I'm pretty

proud of the Olympic movement, for the great solidarity and flexibility everybody has shown so far."

Bach, who won a gold medal in fencing at the 1976 Montreal Olympics, was also asked if he had experienced a period as stressful as this in his 50 years as an athlete and sports official.

"Many," he said, citing concerns of nuclear war with North Korea before the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang, South Korea, and the Zika virus before the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics. He also noted boycotts at each Summer Games from 1976 to 1984 and the terrorist attack at the 1972 Munich Olympics.

"Do you need more?" he said.

MLB wants to ban in-game video, union would allow



TAMPA, Fla.

(AP)—Major League Baseball has proposed banning player access to video during games, according to New York Yankees pitcher Zack Britton, but the union wants to allow it with protections that would prevent catchers' signs from being visible.

Players' association head Tony Clark met with the Yankees for three hours Wednesday and discussed negotiations for new video rules in the wake of the Houston Astros' sign-stealing scandal.

"Right now, MLB's proposal would be like a blackout. There would be no access," Britton said. "That's a pretty extreme stance because of one team, that everyone else is punished. So, hopefully, we can find some common ground, but definitely before opening day. Guys would like to understand what we're going to be allowed to use and what we're not going to be allowed to use before opening day."

Houston violated rules by using a camera in the outfield to steal catchers' signs during its run to the 2017 World Series title and again in 2018. The team was fined \$5 million, manager AJ Hinch and general manager Jeff Luhnow were suspended for one season and the team was stripped of draft picks. Hinch and Luhnow were fired by

the team, but no players were disciplined.

MLB also is investigating whether Boston broke rules.

Under the union's proposal, hitters would still be allowed to review video of their at-bats during games and pitchers would be allowed to look over their mound performance.

"The view that the players have is one that is concerned about where the game is and where it's going. So everything that we've slid across the table in regards to proposals on technology has been a reflection of that," Clark said. "And that we've slid across includes access to technology, certain technology during the course of the game. There's systems that allow for access to your at-bats, and or your time on the mound. Having access to those videos even with certain criteria in place to protect the integrity of those videos is what has been in the proposals."

Clark said there are a number of ways to implement it, including in-house monitoring. The clips would not show catcher's signs.

"The video person would be entrusted with cutting those clips, and you would look to have a standard of oversight thereafter," Clark said. "The conversions we've had included that, as well as the individual clips sent to a central place that allows for

review, as well."

Clark said the union is open to setting rules for player discipline for future technology rules violations. Players will not be punished for violations in the Boston and Houston investigations, baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has said.

"We'd be willing to have that conversion, and that's what happening as we speak," Clark said.

Some players were angry Astros players were not penalized.

"The stance of the guys pretty much in here is more frustration with MLB and the commissioner's office on the handling that," Britton said. "The frustration lies with some of the issues with the teams filing complaints three or four years ago and nothing being done. At the same time as a team, we're more focused now on moving forward and try and win a World Series this year, which I think is the right mindset to have."

The union and MLB also have discussing security issues involving Houston players and their families.

"All of those things are things that we address routinely," Clark said. "As of a result of where we are now, rarely do we address them or look to address them at spring training. More often it's the regular season, but that's what we're doing."

Panthers trading Turner to Chargers for Okung



CHARLOTTE, N.C.

(AP)—A person with knowledge of the deal tells The Associated Press that the Carolina Panthers have agreed to acquire two-time Pro Bowl left tackle Russell Okung from the Los Angeles Chargers for five-time Pro Bowl guard Trai Turner.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the deal can't be processed and the teams cannot comment on it until the NFL's new league year begins March 18.

ESPN and the NFL Network were first to report

the deal.

Okung has spent the past three seasons with the Chargers and fills a need at left tackle that the Panthers have had ever since Michael Oher retired in 2016, one season after Carolina reached the Super Bowl.

The 32-year-old Okung played in six games last year and did not allow a sack. He spent the first part of the season on the reserve/non-football illness list with a pulmonary embolism caused by blood clots.

Okung has started 124 games during his career, winning a Super Bowl with Seattle in the 2013 season.

The 26-year-old Turner has been a mainstay at guard for the Panthers since he was drafted in the third round in 2014.

He has made the Pro Bowl in each of the past five seasons. However, Pro Football Focus stats indicate Turner allowed six sacks in 13 games played last season, which ranked 30th overall among guards.

It's unclear what the trade for Okung means for the future of Panthers left tackle Greg Little, who was selected in the second round last season but struggled to stay on the field because of multiple concussions.

AFC, NMIFA to celebrate Women's Football Day

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has set the stage for honoring women that are involved and have made contributions to the tremendous growth of the sport across the region.

AFC along with its member associations will be holding the AFC Women's Football Day on March 8, which is also recognized as the International Women's Day.

"The AFC is the only confederation which dedicates a single day to all women who have contributed their time, knowledge, and expertise towards football which goes a long way in helping the AFC achieve its vision and mission. This is a small gesture to show our gratitude for their enormous contribution towards the success and immense growth of the sport on all levels across Asia," AFC president Shaikh Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa said.

AFC is encouraging its members to conduct activities that highlight women's football to mark this weekend's celebration. NMIFA will be holding the "3 v 3 Girls Jamboree" at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville this Sunday to join the rest of the AFC family in observing this important event. The jamboree will have youth and adult divisions:



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants in last year's Asian Football Confederation Women's Football Day pose for a group photo after completing their games and other fun activities at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

youth (U9, U12, U15, and U18) and adults (19 to 34 and 35 & above). Activities will start at 3pm.

The NMIFA Women's Committee has invited club members and other groups in the community to participate in the festivities. Committee member Tawny Barcinas of the Matansa Football Club shared her experience from last year's AFC Women's Football Day and anticipates fun activities for this weekend's event.

"We played small sided games, got our exercise in, and had lots of laughs. It was great fun playing with teammates,

seeing friends from other clubs, and seeing new and interested participants

giving soccer a try, which is what Women's Football Day is about—coming together for the love of the sport and promoting active and healthy living," Barcinas said.

AFC will be holding the



Women's Football Day for the sixth straight year and is part of the group's trust in implementing various programs that highlight women's role in the development of the sport and celebrate their milestones.

"NMIFA is pleased to once again take part in the impor-

tant event that pays tribute to women. We are proud to say that women participation in our program is very active and significant. Out of the nine regular clubs we have, six have women presidents. Our talented and dedicated female players and officials are one of the key factors in the continued growth of soccer in the CNMI," NMIFA

president Jerry Tan said.

"They are not only involved in the sport, but have also made contributions to our community as teachers, doctors, mothers, student leaders, and others, and we would like to thank them for that—for making a difference and helping build a better Commonwealth," he added. **(PR)**

MHS

From Page 28

players hitting the board compared to only three from their opponent.

In other results last Tuesday, MHS JV also notched a double-digit winning margin over Kagman High School 3, 34-17.

John Rizo paced MHS JV with his 10 markers, while J.D. Caruana and Jocas Barrera teamed for 16 points.

MHS JV got only its second win in nine games, but the victory boosted the team's playoff chances.

The Top 10 squads after the elimination round of the 12-

team field will advance to the playoffs that will take place on March 13 and 14. The last set of matches in the elims was played yesterday and results were unavailable at press time.

Eight teams have already secured playoff berths, leaving KHS 3, MHS JV, and Mt. Carmel 2 to battle for the remaining tickets. The eight earlier playoff qualifiers—MCS Varsity, KHS JV, Agape, SSHS, Saipan International School, MHS Varsity, KHS Varsity, MHS 3—were scheduled to play yesterday to determine their final rankings in the regular season and seeding in the double-elimination

playoff round.

First Game

Agape 25—S. Xu 9, T. Xu 6, E. Tang 3, Zhang 2, Bao 2, He 2, Jin 1.

MHS 3 11—Lukas 4, Francisco 4, Richards 2.

Scoring by halves: 12-7, 25-11.

Second Game

MHS Varsity 30—Bravo 13, Bernardo 6, Roligat 4, Sacramento 3, Soriano 2, Galang 2.

SSHS 26—Villarin 10, Contreras 6, Deleon Guerrero 4, Atalig 4, Laniyo 2.

Scoring by halves: 14-12, 30-26.

Third Game

MHS JV 34—Rizo 10, Caruana 9, Barrera 7, Navarro 2, Singa 2, Viana 2, Kaipat 2.

KHS 3 17—Aldan 7, Willy 6, Adelbai 2, Hocog 2.

Scoring by halves: 16-8, 34-17.

STANDINGS (Unofficial)

TEAMS	W	L
MCS Varsity	9	0
KHS JV	9	1
SSHS	7	2
Agape	7	2
SIS	7	3
MHS Varsity	6	4
KHS Varsity	3	5
MHS 3	3	7
KHS 3	2	8
MHS JV	2	7
MCS 2	1	7
Da'Ok	0	10

CROWN

From Page 28

that ended with Hopwood threatening to pull away, 4-1.

The Hilitais got back-to-back goals from Relucio in the first half, as she hit the board right in the first minute and sixth, while Capayas made it three in a row



ROSELYN B. MONROY

Hopwood Middle School's Rizza Relucio scored two goals in their 7-4 finals win over Mt. Carmel School in the 2019-2020 Public School System/Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Interscholastic Soccer League last Wednesday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

for Hopwood when she found the back of the net in the ninth. Quintos also posted her goal in the first half (10th minute) and Hopwood seemed ready shut to shut down Mt. Carmel until Chavez ended the drought in the 30th minute.

Hix took the one goal back with her conversion in the 38th minute for Hopwood's 5-1 and the Hilitais went on to keep their safe distance against Mt. Carmel despite yielding two goals to Chavez, as Capayas and Aniana matched the Lady Knights' pair.

With its finals triumph, Hopwood, which swept all the four games this season, was handed the championship plaque during the awards ceremony attended by NMIFA officials led by its president, Jerry Tan, Hopwood principal Dr. Rizalina Liwag, and PSS Athletics Program director Nick Gross.

Both NMIFA and PSS also recognized at the awards ceremony runner-up Mt. Carmel and third placer Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, which topped Saipan International School, 6-2, in the consolation game.

Summer Manahe and Megan Elayda scored three goals each in FMS' win over SIS, which got its twins goals from Martha Culp and Savita Sikkel.

HEATERS

From Page 28

So what changed in the last three games—the play of Goran Dragic and Kelly Olynik. The two best exemplify the adage that the best trades you'd ever make are the one you don't.

Before the season started, The Dragon and The Big Canadian were supposed to go to the Dallas Mavericks to clear cap space for the Jimmy Buckets signing. But Mark Cuban's team pulled out of the deal when they thought they were getting Derrick Jones Jr. instead of Dragic.

Dragic and Olynik have been terrific off the pine the last three games. Against the Bucks, Olynik scored 11 points in 11 minutes, including a behind-the-back dribble, step-back 3-pointer against a flailing Brook Lopez in the second quarter.

The Slovenian Sensation,

meanwhile, more than made up for a terrible first half by scoring all of his 15 points in the final 24 minutes of the game. Not bad for a soon-to-be 34-year-old.

I'd be remiss not to mention the terrific play of all-stars Butler and Bam Adebayo. The latter has soldiered on despite some personal issues and is recording career highs in assists and rebounding in his first season in South Beach, while the 6'9" Adebayo has proved to all and sundry why he has a case for this season's Most Improved Player award.

And there are undrafted players Kendrick Nunn and Duncan Robinson. The latter I nicknamed Twin Towers (for obvious reasons).

Nunn may no longer be a Rookie of the Year favorite (Memphis' Jan Morant has all but sealed that despite the incredible play of Monstar Zion Williamson), but he's slowly

developed a passing game to complement his already diverse offensive package.

The 6'8" Robinson, meanwhile, has continued his streak of making more than two triples in a game to 19. While he still remains a liability on defense, the former Division III player from little-known Williams College is a crucial floor spacer for Miami and can turn it on anytime from the land of plenty.

DJJ has tapered off a bit since becoming a starter in place of Leonard, but the 2020 Slam Dunk champion could still be counted on for at least a couple of high-wire acts a game.

Off the three new acquisitions, Crowder has been the most productive and appears to be a perfect fit for Spoelstra's equal-opportunity offense. Everybody knows he's a 3-and-D player, but no one envisioned him shooting .451 beyond the arc his first 10 games suiting up for Miami.

At 36, Iggy has also shown flashes on defense and gives valuable playoff experience to the Heat. Give him a few more weeks to be in game shape, as he sat down the first half of the season after refusing to play for the Grizzlies.

So what's the ceiling for the Heat this season? The playoffs are a lock, but I would be terribly upset if they don't make it to at least the second round of the postseason.

And the potential second round matchup for the Heat is no other than Giannis Antetokounmpo and the Bucks, the same team they have already beaten twice, accounting for more than a fifth of Milwaukee's nine losses this season.

The Heat may not win the NBA championship this year and would be lucky to reach the Eastern Conference finals. But one thing's for certain, Miami is relevant again this season and I'm already happy with that.



Doncic breaks career triple-double record

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune Sports

Despite virus, IOC unwavering on Olympics starting in July
PAGE 26



28 FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 2020

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hopwood takes IFL crown



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hopwood Middle School capped its perfect run in the girls middle school division of the 2019-2020 Public School System /Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Interscholastic Soccer League with a 7-4 win over Mt. Carmel School in their title duel last Wednesday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Hopwood's multiple options on offense made it easier for the Catherine Torculas-coached team to rule the winner-take-all finale. Five different players scored for the Hilitais with Rizza Relucio and Julie Ann Capayas deliver-

ing two goals apiece, and Sophia Quintos, Tamia Hix, and Mary Joy Aniana contributing one goal each. Tara Islam, Jermaine Gison, Bianca Mangulabnan, Direnalyn Castro, Christhena Amaro, and

Drylenne Joseph are also members of the champion squad. While Hopwood drew goals from different players to cruise to the finals win, it was the opposite for Mt. Carmel—which relied

Hopwood Middle School players and coaches pose with Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials led by its president Jerry Tan, third right, and Public School System Athletics Program director Nick Gross, right, during the awards ceremony for the 2019-2020 PSS /NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League last Wednesday night at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

heavily on Kaithlyn Chavez.

Chavez scored all three goals for the Lady Knights with her first recorded in the closing minute of the first half

See CROWN on Page 27

Here come the Heaters

MARKSMAN
By MARK RABAGO
Associate Editor



Growing up Mark wanted to play pro basketball. When his talent and height didn't measure up, he opted for a career in journalism instead.

Save for a short time in the late '90s and early 2000s for the Indiana Pacers, I've only rooted for two teams in the NBA—the Los Angeles Lakers and the Miami Heat. I haven't really forgiven LeBron for leaving South Beach so my loyalties for the Purple and Gold are now lukewarm at best.

The Heat is a different story though. I'm no bandwagon Miami fan who began following the team only after James boldly proclaimed that he, Dwyane Wade, and Chris Bosh will win "not 1, not 2, not 3, not 4, not 5, not 6, not 7" championships.

I also predated the 2006 Heat that won the Larry O'Brien trophy with an emerging Wade and a Shaquille O'Neal on a redemption tour.

The Miami Heat teams I remember were the ones anchored by Alonzo Mourning, Tim Hardaway, Dan Majerle, and even the late Anthony Mason. Those teams were Pat Riley personified—full of grit, never backed down on anyone, and used defense as their calling card.

The 2003 version of the team was also fun to watch with rookie Wade, Udonis Haslem, Caron Butler, Lamar Odom, and of course Eddie Jones managing to reach the second round of the playoffs following a 0-7 record to start the season.

I admit the past couple of seasons for Miami have been a cringe-fest. But the rollercoaster ride now serves as an epitaph to the only time Riles really bombed out on his free agent signings (Dion Waiters and Hassan Whiteside... OK Josh McRoberts and Danny Granger post-LeB-

ron were worse, but at least they were cheap).

Which now brings us to the post-Wade era 2019-2020 Miami Heat. Let's just say that this Jimmy Butler-led team has made me experience the full spectrum of emotions. They've won against the best (76ers, Raptors, and league-leading Bucks—all twice), but also lost to lottery bound squads (Timberwolves, Hawks, and the woeful Cavaliers).

I'm sure head coach Erik Spoelstra has lost a lot of sleep from this Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde impersonation the Heat have been doing.

The mid-season trade for Andre Iguodala, Jae Crowder, and Solomon Hill may have also disrupted team chemistry. I also do miss Swiss Army Knife and consummate glue guy James Johnson, but if he and Justise Winslow were the price to pay to finally get rid of Waiters (and his space gummy bears) and get maximum cap space to lure the Greek Freak in 2021, then I'm onboard.

Injuries to Myles Leonard and off-the-bench firestarter Tyler Herro may have also played a part in the Heat's inconsistent play.

The team dropped seven of its last nine games and looked totally lost before Butler and Co. won three straight games to improve its record to 39-22 coming into yesterday's matchup against Sunshine State rival the Orlando Magic.

The latest and most impressive victory among the three came at the expense of league-leading Milwaukee Bucks who are on pace for a 71-game season.

See HEATERS on Page 27

MHS Varsity beats SSHS; Agape moves up



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Marianas High School Varsity out-classed Saipan Southern High School, 30-26, while Agape Christian School cruised past MHS 3, 25-11, in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Marianas High School Junior Varsity and Kagman High School 3 players watch the ball go to the baseline during the second half of their game in the 2019-2020 Public School System Interscholastic Boys High School Basketball League last Tuesday at the MHS Gymnasium.

MHS Varsity improved its record to 6-4 for solo fifth place in the team standings, while Agape jumped to third with its 7-2 mark, matching Saipan Southern's rankings.

Christian Bravo top-scored in MHS Varsity's sixth win after posting 13 points, while Bryan Bernardo and Oldie Roligat combined for 10. Erwin Villarin had 10 points to lead the Manta Rays

The MHS-Saipan Southern duel was a close match with the Dolphins clinging to a 14-12 lead after the first half. MHS Varsity preserved its slim lead and took the win, thanks to Bravo, who made 9 of his total points in the second half.

In the Agape-MHS 3 tiff, the Torchbearers led from start to finish, as they had seven

See MHS on Page 27